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Death toll rises to 36 as reporters are shot and wounded



Portrait of defiance: demonstrators at an ANC rally in Johannesburg yesterday shouting their support for Nelson Mandela and his strike call

ANC claims huge support for strike

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

THE African National Congress brought South Africa to a grinding halt yesterday at the start of a two-day general strike, which the organisers claimed was a resounding success, but which has resulted in at least 36 deaths during the past three days.

Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC general secretary, claimed that as many as four million blacks had stayed at home in support of the 14-point demand put by Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, to the government of President de Klerk, calling for constitutional concessions, and an end to violence.

The South African Chamber of Business, however, insisted that the stoppage was not nearly as complete as the ANC and its left-wing allies, the South African Communist Party and the Congress of South African Trade Unions

(Cosatu), claimed. Employers said that around half the workforce came to work. Anglo American, the principal mining conglomerate, said that its entire staff turned up at its gold mines, and that only a quarter of them stayed away in the coalfields.

Among the day's casualties were two white reporters who were shot and wounded in the troubled Vaal triangle south of here. The two, Paul Taylor of *The Washington Post*, and Phillip van Niekirk, one of the star reporters of the local *Weekly Mail*, were in the black township of Sebokeng, which has a particularly bad reputation for violence. Mr van Niekirk, who also writes for *The Guardian*, the *Boston Globe* and the *Toronto Globe & Mail*, was shot in the jaw. Mr Taylor in the shoulder. Both were taken to Sebokeng hospital. Mr van Niekirk, whose injuries were more severe, was later airlifted to Johannesburg.

More than 10 people died yesterday in violence associated with the strike. The worst bloodshed was in Natal. Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC secretary-general, expressed his regret for the shootings and offered his condolences to the families of the victims. He insisted, however, that the majority of people who had been killed had been ANC supporters. "These incidents have to be seen against a background of a widespread tension generated in our country as a result of the resistance put up against our general strike," Mr Ramaphosa claimed that the numbers of people supporting the strike, were a resounding "yes" for democracy and peace, but political commentators were more cautious. Professor Tom Lodge, from Witwatersrand University here, said: "The percentage of people who stayed at home does not tell us if they support the ANC alliance's cause, if they are happy

about staying at home, or if they would vote ANC in an election."

The ruling National Party issued a statement which read: "Instead of sitting back and observing the bloody and violent consequences of mass action from the heights of power and privilege, the ANC leadership should demonstrate their willingness to be constructive and call a halt to mass action in the interests of the country."

The government has said the two-day strike will harm the country's economy, and can result only in more people losing their jobs. But the feeling among industrial commentators was that the economy was likely to survive the harm that a short sharp stoppage could inflict. "Inventories are quite high at present," said one analyst.

The most severe clash between the strikers and the authorities seems likely to come from the intransigent military ruler of Ciskei, the independent black homeland on the Eastern Cape coast. Brigadier Oupa Gqozo has refused permission for the ANC to march to the national assembly building, and promises to fire on anyone who tries to do so.

A Ciskeian government statement said that the ANC was aiming to overthrow the regime and to make the homeland ungovernable. The government also said that 96.

The military ruler of another homeland, Venda in the far north of the country took a different view. There, Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana himself stayed away from work, and said he was observing the ANC strike call.

House sale tax loss scheme rejected

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND LINDSAY COOK

A BUILDING society plan to revive the housing market by compensating homeowners for losses on house sales through the tax system appeared certain to be rejected by the government last night.

Abbey National, the second largest mortgage lender, wants homeowners to be given up to £10,000 in tax refunds.

As ministers came under fresh pressure to take action to help a sector vital to economic recovery, the Treasury gave a cautious official reaction to the Abbey National plan to allow losses to be offset against income tax on the strict understanding that the proceeds would be reinvested in another property.

The scheme would be looked at with interest, the Treasury and Downing Street said. Unofficially, however, senior government sources made plain that the plan was unlikely to find favour.

They said that the scheme, estimated by experts to cost £1.5 billion, was not a priority.

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Abbey suffers, page 15
Comment, page 19

Major rejects plea by Owen

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND MICHAEL EVANS

THE prime minister yesterday rejected calls for direct military action aimed at ending the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina. John Major said the international community could not be united behind such a policy and there were difficulties over using air power or troops.

Mr Major told Lord Owen, the former foreign secretary and Social Democratic leader, that he did not detect support among MPs or in public opinion for "operations which would tie down large numbers of British

forces in difficult and dangerous terrain for a long period."

Lord Owen, writing in *The Times* today after calling for military action last week, says: "This is a moral issue. History really is repeating itself in Europe. But this time we can see it on television.... Tales of death and brutality make it no exaggeration to warn of a holocaust."

Mr Major emphasised the government's determination to assist diplomatic moves to bring peace. He said the London conference on August 26, which he will chair, would be

a "major effort to mobilise international pressure on all the former Yugoslav parties, and in particular the Serbs, to abandon their wholly unacceptable use of force."

The prime minister's opposition to intervention in Bosnia followed military advice against the use of force, which was that all the options involved unacceptable risks. Surgical strikes to knock out the principal artillery positions around Sarajevo were viewed as impractical.

Lord Owen, page 10
Transport hit, page 8

Dolphin midwives attend London mothers

BY GEOFF KING AND RICHARD BEESTON

THE legendary powers of dolphins are to be put to a new test. After rescuing drowning swimmers, entertaining crowds and being used in the treatment of handicapped children, they are to serve as midwives to a group of expectant mothers.

The women will swim with the dolphins in the late stages of pregnancy, when it is hoped that the mammals will be able to make ultrasound contact with the unborn child. The babies will then be reintroduced to the dolphins as soon as possible after birth. Up to 12 women are due to take part in the experiment, thought to be the first of its kind in the West.

They will fly from Britain next month to Israel's Dolphin Reef sanctuary at the resort of Eilat.

The organiser of the project is Dr Gower Motha, an obstetrician at Whips Cross hospital, Leytonstone, east London, who says it will be of benefit to both mother and child. "It is a natural development from the benefits already experienced by women giving birth in water and the use of dolphins in therapy," she said.

The women would give birth either in a shallow birthing pool or in the sea itself with dolphins close at hand. The birth would be monitored closely and medical staff would be on standby in case of emergency. Dr Motha, who also runs a centre specialising in complementary medicine, said the

cost of the trip would be about £2,000 per couple. Some of the dozen on her books were able to pay while others were seeking sponsorship.

"I have always wanted to work with dolphins," she said. "There are thought to have been some cases of women giving birth with dolphins in Russia but nothing that has been well documented. The women will swim with the dolphins before and during the birth. There is no doubt that just being around them takes your mind off your own self and will take the women's minds off the contractions."

"Dolphins communicate with one another by ultrasound and may be able to communicate subconsciously with the foetus. Exactly where the

women give birth will be up to them."

Maya Zilber, head trainer at Dolphin Reef, said: "We have had terrific results using dolphins with depressed people, autistic children and children with Down's syndrome. The dolphins' natural social behaviour and friendliness often have dramatic results on the patients."

The scheme was greeted with scepticism by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Joe Jordan, an obstetrician at Birmingham Maternity Hospital, said there might be a danger of infection in the sea: "The baby's welfare may be put at risk because of more concern with the environment for the mother than the outcome as far as the baby is concerned."

Jackson's medal hopes dashed at Olympics

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN BARCELONA

COLIN Jackson, one of Britain's outstanding hopes for a track gold medal, could finish only seventh in the 110m hurdles yesterday, in a race won by his Canadian flatmate, Mark McCoy. Jackson, the European and Commonwealth champion, hit two hurdles early in the race. His British team mate, Tony Jarrett, was fourth in 13.26 seconds, the same time as the bronze-medal winner, Jack Pierce, of the United States.

Jackson said afterwards that he also hit the final hurdle. "I went through the tape almost on my nose."

McCoy, who admitted experimenting with drugs while under the coach Charlie Francis, the adviser to Ben Johnson before the 1988 Olympic Games, recorded 13.12 seconds.

Two leading British 400m runners, Derek Redmond and Roger Black, failed to reach the final. Redmond pulled up with a hamstring injury in his semi-final, although he hobbled over the line assisted by his father, Jim, who had climbed over the barrier on to the track.

In the second heat, Redmond's British record was broken by David Grindley, who ran 44.47 seconds and just qualified for the final.

In the archery competition, Simon Terry took Britain's first individual medal since 1908 when he finished third in the 70 m event. Earlier he had beaten Vladimir Esheev, the world record-holder, during the competition and, at 18, has a bright future.

The Princess Royal may become involved in a dispute over the future of the equestrian events at the Olympic Games. Dick Pound, a Canadian member of the International Olympic Committee executive board, has suggested that equestrianism, fencing, Graeco-Roman wrestling and modern pentathlon could go out of the games in the year 2000.

The princess, the president of the International Equestrian Federation and IOC member, is bound to defend the sport in which she competed at the 1976 Games.

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Simon Barnes, page 14
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TODAY IN THE TIMES

ICON OF ACADEME

To the public Madonna is just a star, but to an academic she is the perfect essay subject

Life & Times page 1

TOKEN OF LUXURY

Experience the luxury of top French hotels at cut prices in a new Times special offer

Life & Times page 4

SYMBOL OF RACISM?

America is debating whether the new Batman film is anti-Semitic

Page 10

PLEASE DON'T LOOK AWAY

WITHOUT YOUR HELP I WON'T HAVE A HOME

Penpis is a little girl who lives in an orphanage in Thailand. The Pattaya Orphanage was founded 15 years ago by Father Brennan to care for children without a home, without sight, without hearing, or who are severely handicapped in other ways. The orphanage doesn't just give these little ones a home, it also gives them a better chance in life.

A home, an education, and, most importantly, love have saved Penpis from an awful fate. Your help could stop these being taken away from her again.

Please help Father Brennan in his fight for these children. Every little bit counts. It costs only £15.12 to provide for a child for a month, £181.44 for a whole year.

THANKYOU FOR CARING ENOUGH TO SEND A DONATION

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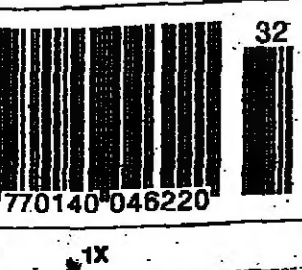
Cowes deaths

Two people were killed and two others were seriously injured on the first day of racing at Cowes Week. Coastguards were called 15 times in four hours to yachts buffeted by winds of up to 40mph. Page 2

Bush setback

President Bush's damaged re-election campaign suffered a further setback when the White House had to apologise for a personal attack on Bill Clinton that recalled allegations of adultery and drug-taking against the Arkansas governor. Page 9

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Boutros Ghali attacks Britain over Bosnia row

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

BOUTROS Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, yesterday attacked British press criticism of his policy towards Bosnia-Herzegovina and said, in the most undiplomatic language, that it was "maybe because I'm a wog".

The outburst, in an interview with the New York Times, appeared to be an attempt by the new UN head to play to the gallery in the overwhelmingly Third World organisation by reviving the anti-Western rhetoric fashionable in the 1970s.

His remarks seemed certain to worsen the dispute that began last month when he rejected a proposed UN role in monitoring heavy weapons in Bosnia-Herzegovina under

the European Community-brokered London peace accord, even though it had already been endorsed by the Security Council.

Dr Boutros Ghali portrayed his dispute with the council over Bosnia-Herzegovina as a battle between developing nations and the "colonial powers" of Europe.

He criticised the "Eurocentrism" of the organisation, and said that "the real problem of the next ten years will be mainly in the countries of the Third World". He said: "If we continue to get involved in Yugoslavia, this will be at the expense of other activity," adding that he regarded it his duty to try to get the Europeans to do something about the civil war and starvation in Somalia.

Dr Boutros Ghali complained

that when the London peace accord collapsed, the Europeans "just threw the ball" to the United Nations.

He also made a thinly veiled attack on Britain, which had sent Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, on a hasty mission to UN headquarters when the dispute over the London peace accord broke out.

"When a country is in difficulty with its public opinion concerning what to do in Yugoslavia, or when there are other problems, they are a monster," he said. "They will not hesitate to find the body to accuse him of all the sins."

With what the New York Times described as "more than a hint of scorn" in his voice, he criticised the failure of Lord Carrington, chairman of the EC conference on Yugo-

slavia, to return to Sarajevo to secure a lasting ceasefire in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Dr Boutros Ghali's attempt to turn the dispute over Bosnia-Herzegovina into a clash between the First World and the Third World seemed like an attempt to win support from developing countries, who, like their Western counterparts, have been critical of the new UN chief.

Diplomats say that nations from the Horn of Africa have told Western powers that they do not share Dr Boutros Ghali's criticism of Security Council inaction on Somalia, which was set back by the delay of a report by the secretary-general himself. Third World ambassadors criticise Dr Boutros Ghali's high-handed manner. One new Caribbean ambassador was reportedly granted

only 45 seconds to present credentials to the UN chief, instead of the normal 10-15 minutes.

African ambassadors were offended when their suggestion that a former Nigerian head of state act as UN envoy to South Africa instead of the former US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, a Westerner, was rejected by Dr Boutros Ghali as "primitive thinking".

In spite of his Third World rhetoric, one of Dr Boutros Ghali's first acts on taking office was to combine the myriad economic and social offices at UN headquarters into a single department.

Developing countries fear this will leave many of their tasks in the hands of the Western-dominated International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Children's home to be closed for too much slapping

BY ALISON ROBERTS

A WELSH children's home will close after an enquiry found unacceptable levels of violence caused by poor management and underfunding.

Presenting the results of the year-long investigation into allegations of physical abuse at Ty Mawr children's home in Abergavenny, Gwent, Lord Gareth Williams, QC, chairman of the Bar Council, said there was no evidence of "pindown-style" cruelty, but low level violence such as cutting and slapping existed to an unacceptable extent. Ty Mawr, which took children with criminal records as well as non-offenders, was "out of control" because of a shortage of qualified staff and an inappropriate mix of boys, he said. It was the victim of an entrenched managerial system which no longer worked; the state should be wiped clean and the home closed.

Lord Williams said: "Deeply disturbed youngsters were among boys who had simply nowhere to live and just wanted a stable home and suitable education." He said Gwent county council should never again control such an institution.

Replying to the report's criticism, Graham Dally, the chairman of the council's social services committee, said: "Mistakes are made every day of your working life. There were mistakes made here. We will address those mistakes. As soon as it is practically possible, the place will be shut down."

Ty Mawr has remained open since the Welsh Office ordered an enquiry last year despite a report by the Social Services Inspectorate in 1989 which found "serious deficiencies" at the home. It will

close as soon as other arrangements for the boys can be found.

The report published yesterday named several people with particular responsibility for problems at the home and condemned the council for abolishing a board of management which looked after Ty Mawr. Gwent's former director of social services, Roger Perkins, who retired earlier this year, was accused of an "unduly autocratic" style of management "veering on the dictatorial". A lack of staff confidence in Mr Perkins and his failure to ensure sufficient support of staff at Ty Mawr in difficult circumstances were criticised.

"Too many persons at all levels spoke of a feeling of unease at approaching him with problems, and of a feeling that his favour or disfavour might be granted or taken away at any time without proper basis. These are grave criticisms," the report says.

Two boys who alleged abuse at the home later committed suicide, one while on remand in Swansea Prison's hospital wing. Philip Knight, 15, and Leslie Clements, 17, claimed that Ty Mawr staff victimised them emotionally and physically. Other children claimed that solitary confinement in the home's two cells was used as a punishment for running away and other petty incidents.

The report found that Ty Mawr staff, although inadequately trained, were generally well-meaning and dedicated. However, former housemaster Bill Williams, no longer employed by the county council, used a "relatively minor" but unacceptable

degree of violence to discipline boys, the report says.

Lord Williams added: "It's no good pretending that everyone who goes to Ty Mawr is of slight build and angelic. I don't think it was capable of dealing with the needs and proper requirements of the boys. That's not to say that people didn't do their best."

The report recommended that the county council should be more responsive to legitimate interest from the media, but it called on newspapers to deal tactfully and scrupulously with "vulnerable young people".

The Children's Society welcomed the report, but urged the county council to ensure adequate alternative provision for children. Both the National Association of Young People in Care (Naypic) and the Association of Directors of Social Services drew attention to the wider issues involved in caring for children in institutions.

Alex Saddington, of Naypic, said: "The problems at Ty Mawr are going to go on elsewhere unless other facilities for caring for problem teenagers are found. These places cannot just be used as a dumping ground for unwanted youngsters. We believe councils all over Britain should be looking at alternatives to having residential homes like this with more use of foster carers to remove the need of having institutions like Ty Mawr."

The report last month of an independent enquiry chaired by Lady Elspeth Howe described a "crisis in residential care", following a series of residential home scandals. In Staffordshire, 130 children were kept in solitary confinement for weeks at a time, and in Leicestershire, Frank Beck, a children's home manager, was jailed for life last year for systematic sexual abuse lasting many months.

There have also been reports of abuse of residents in old people's homes adding to the demoralised state of residential services. Lady Howe recommended that a code of rights should be drawn up for all people living in such institutions.



Closing down: Ty Mawr home in Abergavenny

Armchair gold goes to Britons

THE British and Spanish are Europe's leading armchair sportsmen, with nine out of ten men watching the Olympic Games on television for between one and two hours a day.

And more than half of all British viewers watch the games for more than three hours a day, a survey published yesterday says.

But the Barcelona games leave many women cold, with three out of 10 in Europe watching none of the coverage.

A thousand men and women were questioned in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Britain for the poll on behalf of Olympic sponsors Visa.

The nation most confident of victory is Germany, where more than half of those taking part in the survey think their team will win between 50 and 100 medals.

And one in three German men expect their sporting heroes to return home with more than 100 medals.

The Italians and Spanish are the least optimistic, with seven out of 10 people expecting their sportsmen to win no more than 10 medals.

Jackson flops, page 1
Simon Barnes, page 14
Olympic reports, pages 26-28

Germans intent on abandoning EFA

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN and two of its partners in the £22 billion European Fighter Aircraft (EFA) development project will be told today that the Germans have not changed their minds about withdrawing from the production phase of the collaborative project.

Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, is meeting his counterparts from Bonn, Madrid and Rome to see whether the Germans can be persuaded to stay in the programme. The Italian and Spanish defence ministers are expected to echo Mr Rifkind's argument that withdrawal makes no sense.

The meeting of the four defence ministers in Madrid will be the first occasion for Britain, Italy and Spain to mount a joint lobbying sortie on Germany since Bonn's decision to drop the fighter last month. However, the message from the defence ministry in Bonn yesterday was: "There is no change in our position."

Volker Rühle, the German defence minister, remains keen to pursue a new aircraft which would be lighter and cheaper than EFA. He wants to switch the money not yet spent on the development programme to design a new

plane. Germany has spent about half of the £2 billion Bonn committed to the EFA development project.

Mr Rifkind, Salva Ando, the Italian defence minister, and Julian Garcia Vargas, from Spain, are expected to argue that Herr Rühle's proposal would mean starting all over again and could lead to an aircraft as much as 20 per cent more expensive.

The EFA manufacturers from the four partner countries, including Germany, are making a three-month study of all the alternatives to the existing programme. This includes examinations of the German light EFA proposal and possible cheaper versions of the existing prototype.

This study will be completed by October and Mr Rifkind, with his Spanish and Italian colleagues, hopes that Bonn will delay any final decision until then. Germany has yet to make a formal withdrawal from the EFA programme.

This month, Germany is to be briefed about Sweden's Gripen aircraft, a potential rival to EFA. A possible trade-off could involve Sweden buying the German Leopard II tank in return for sales of the lightweight Swedish fighter.

Blow for lake speeders

BY RONALD FAIR

THREE people were rescued from Windermere at the weekend when two power boats collided and one sank after being holed. No one was injured but Cumbria police are investigating the incident, which happened at a critical point in the campaign to impose a 10mph limit on the lake.

The Lake District National Park planning board has voted for the ban which opponents say will threaten marine businesses, watersports schools and tourism on Windermere. Power boats are banned on all other Cumbrian lakes. Supporters and objectors have until the end of this week to make submissions to the Home Office, which is expected to call for a public enquiry.

Groups campaigning for the speed limit, including the Countryside Commission and the National Trust, say that powerboats are a danger to other lake users.

Opponents include the Sports Council, the Royal Yachting Association and the Cumbria tourist board, who say that the by-law imposing the ban would offend the joint structure plan for the area and that no evidence has been produced to show that the lake is over-used. A ban would also put a wrong interpretation on the "doctrine of quiet enjoyment" set out in a report for the national parks review panel by Professor Ron Edwards.

Commenting on the collision and rescue at the weekend a spokesman for the lake users' organisation said: "Accidents will occur whatever the regulations."

Two die as winds hit Cowes yachts

BY RAY CLANCY

TWO people died and two were seriously injured yesterday during the third day of Cowes Week racing in the Solent. In Swansea Bay, 65 children taking part in a dinghy race were thrown into the wind-whipped sea.

In the Solent, coastguards were called 15 times in four hours as choppy seas and winds up to 40mph caused difficulties for hundreds of yachts in the annual regatta. A woman aged 30 from Shaftesbury, Dorset, died after being hit by a boom aboard the 35ft yacht *Valdemar*.

The man who died had been washed overboard from the 35ft *Mefisto*. Another member of the same crew was thrown from the yacht but he caught hold of the sail and clambered back on board.

The yachts were racing for the finishing line off Lymington. Almost 700 competing vessels were in the area, including *Yeoman XXVIII* with the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Edward aboard.

Another yachtsman suffered a suspected heart attack and the lifeboat was called out again to aid a crew member with serious head injuries. Other incidents included a yachtsman breaking his wrist and another who lost the top of a finger.

"It has been very busy. There were hundreds of yachts all racing fast in choppy conditions," a Solent coastguard spokesman said. "There have been gusts of up to 40 knots, not enough to stop the racing but some sailors who would normally think twice about the conditions have been going out."

Captain Dan Brady, secretary of the organising Cowes Combined Clubs, said

there had not been any need to cancel the racing. "In most cases it has been the unexpected that has caused the injuries. There is no reason why good sailors could not handle the conditions."

Most of the children thrown into the sea in Swansea Bay were pulled aboard other boats but two were picked up by a helicopter. Swansea coastguards yesterday said the dinghy race off the Mumbles should have been called off when the weather worsened.

Over 200 teenagers from all over the world were sailing in squally seas when gusts of 40 mph toppled their flimsy boats. Bill Rae, duty coastguard officer, said: "The situation quickly deteriorated into a very dangerous situation that was way out of anyone's control. The seas were horrendous."

"The organisers are lucky there were no fatalities. At no time were we consulted about the dangerous weather conditions developing. If we had been asked we would have told them to call the whole thing off. My advice to organisers of races like this is to check the weather."

John Parfitt, secretary of the Mumbles Yacht club, which organised the race, denied that the situation was out of control. "We have a great deal of experience in organising these events and usually allow them to go ahead in winds up to force five."

"Unfortunately, weather conditions deteriorated after the race was started and about a third of the boats were blown over. While it was hectic at times our safety cover was adequate," he said.

Hostile seas, page 24

NEWS IN BRIEF

Talks held after BA crew call off strike

Today's threatened 24-hour strike by British Airways short-haul cabin crew has been called off. Officials of the TGWU, representing 2,600 stewards and stewardesses, dropped their strike call after branch meetings at Heathrow, Gatwick and Belfast voted against any industrial action.

Meetings between BA and the union began in Birmingham to discuss union concerns over cost-cutting measures which could lead to the salaries of some cabin crew working out of Manchester, Birmingham and Scotland being cut by as much as £2,000 a year. BA maintained, however, that it would not make any new concessions. "We now expect them to honour the agreement which was reached in March and enable the airline to operate normally," a BA spokesman said.

George Hyde, the TGWU national aviation secretary, said that BA staff had chosen strike action as a "last resort" but were called off their action after the agreement on further talks. "Our members have now taken a mature decision in the interests of both the airline and the travelling public to respond to management's decision to participate in talks." Other unions had agreed to a tough restructuring of the airline's regional network to bring its costs down to those of smaller independent competitors. Staff had been offered transfers to Heathrow, redundancy or phased salary cuts.

Teacher wins crown

Cyril Jones, 45, a teacher and adult education organiser, yesterday won the poetry crown at the National Eisteddfod of Wales in Aberystwyth. His winning poem, on the theme of unity, was based on letters between him and a Kenyan youth. Mr Jones said he had written about the wholeness of man in society using his own Cardiganshire dialect to emphasise the importance of local characteristics. The verses, written while he was on honeymoon in Cyprus, had been inspired by a journey he had undertaken through Kenya three years ago. It was the first time he had competed for the crown although he had twice come second in the more difficult competition for the chair.

Man shot by robbers

Armed robbers shot a man who tackled them at London's Victoria coach station as they held up a Securix van believed to have just collected ticket office takings. The unnamed man, 27, who worked at the coach station, was taken to St Thomas's Hospital. His condition was said to be stable. Scotland Yard said the incident happened at 11.30am and the robbers escaped with the cash on a stolen motorcycle, which they abandoned outside Sloane Square station before fleeing into the Tube.

Queen Mother saluted

Many hundreds of wellwishers are expected to gather at the gate of Clarence House in London today to greet Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on her 92nd birthday. The band of the Irish Guards, and the pipes and drums of their 1st Battalion, will march past the Queen Mother's home, while salutes are fired in Hyde Park and at the Tower of London. As in previous years she is expected to make an appearance at the gate to accept gifts and cards from the crowd, and will later attend a private lunch party with the Queen, Princess Margaret and other members of royal family. Later this week the Queen Mother leaves for her private Scottish home at Castle of Mey in Caithness, where she will remain throughout August.

Cast of 5,000, page 13

Men on murder charge

A gardener aged 17 and two juveniles will appear before magistrates at Croydon, south London, today, accused of murdering Ruhallah Aramesh, an Afghan refugee who was beaten to death by a gang of men at the weekend. Paul Hannon, of South Norwood, south London, also faces charges of violent disorder and two counts of committing grievous bodily harm with intent. The two juveniles, aged 15 and 16, are also charged with violent disorder and the 15-year-old is further charged with two counts of grievous bodily harm with intent. Mr Aramesh, 24, received severe head injuries when he was attacked on Friday night close to his home in Thornton Heath by a gang of ten men armed with metal bars taken from a building site. He died in hospital on Sunday.

Fish deal ruled illegal

A price-fixing deal between Scottish and Norwegian fish farmers, that pushed the price of salmon in the European Community up by 27 per cent in January 1990, broke Community rules, the European Commission said yesterday. It told the Scottish Salmon Farmers' Marketing Board, the Scottish Salmon Growers' Association and the Shetland Salmon Farmers' Association, which represent 80 per cent of Scottish output, that any future deals could result in heavy fines. The Commission decided not to impose fines because the Norwegian Fish Farmers' Sales Organisation, with which the Scottish farmers colluded, is bankrupt and the price-fixing has ended. Under the deal, Norwegian salmon which could not fetch the benchmark price was frozen.

Luke joins masters



Luke McShane, left, the world's youngest chess master, joined 55 other players at the start yesterday of the British Chess Championship in Plymouth. Luke, 8, is competing in the under-13 section. The three favourites for honours are grandmasters Jonathan Mestel, Mark Hebden and the reigning British champion, Julian Hodgson. In the first round, Hodgson, the defending champion, defeated J. Ryan of Ireland.

Stamp fiddle checked

A stamp dealer who made thousands of pounds re-selling used British stamps was yesterday given a suspended six months jail sentence at Exeter Crown Court. John Berry, 50, of Ipplepen, near Newton Abbot, Devon, who was convicted last month of two charges under the Stamp Duties Management Act, had bought used stamps which had not been franked or had minor franking marks at 60 per cent of their face value and sold them at up to 90 per cent of the full value. The court was told, between July 1990 and September 1991, Berry made nearly £14,000 profit on sales of £43,000. The law prohibits the re-selling of stamps that have been through the postal system and Berry, operating on his own, did so knowing that it was illegal, the court was told.

Murder charge

Kelvin McMahon, 24, of Hounslow, west London, was charged yesterday with murdering Christopher Stanley, 9. McMahon, who is unemployed, was remanded in custody by magistrates at Feltham, west London. Christopher's body was found in a second world war pillbox on a golf course at Hounslow Heath.

Allan
again
unwo



Clerk stole
wig from
barrister

Father told

Allan's libel claim against Channel 4 'unworthy of belief'

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE case of Jani Allan, the South African journalist suing Channel 4 over allegations of a sexual relationship with Eugene Terre Blanche, the South African neo-Nazi leader, was so seriously flawed that it was unworthy of belief, Mr George Carman QC told the High Court yesterday.

Mr Carman, representing Channel 4, was winding up the defendants' case at the end of a hearing in which the jury of six men and six women have heard ten days of evidence, much of it from defence witnesses flown from Johannesburg. Miss Allan, 40, who lives in southwest London, is claiming damages over the film *The Leader, His Driver and the Driver's Wife*, which she says falsely portrayed her as a lady of easy virtue who had an affair with Mr Terre Blanche.

In his closing speech, Mr

Carman asked the jury: "Is this woman, Miss Allan, a woman deserving of your compassion and sympathy entitled to damages from you as an innocent woman, as she would claim, unjustly wronged by a television programme? Or is she a woman who, when the mask slips, has tried to tiptoe her way through the minefield of truth that surrounded her? If truth is to win, should the case ever have been brought?"

Documents and tape recordings produced to support the defence case cast a flood of light on where the truth really lay, Mr Carman said. They portrayed Miss Allan as having been gravely untruthful in the witness box.

Miss Allan, whenever confronted with reality which was too uncomfortable, resorted to claiming that it was fantasy, Mr Carman said. Her case had been devastated by defence documents.

Charles Gray QC, winding up for Miss Allan, said that on the one hand the court had heard Jani Allan saying adamantly and repeatedly that she never had any kind of sexual relationship with Mr Terre Blanche, while on the other hand a plane load of witnesses from South Africa had taken every opportunity to assert or imply that the couple had sex.

He reminded the jury not to

reach a decision by numbers, by adding up the total of witnesses on each side. "Do you really think if she really is the adulteress that Channel 4 would have you accept her to be, she would have gone into the witness box and perjured herself not just once or twice, but dozens and dozens of times?" Mr Gray said that, for all Mr Carman's skill, he had been wholly unable to shake Miss Allan through a long and probing cross-examination.

The evidence of Linda Shaw, who had told the court she watched through a keyhole as Miss Allan and Mr Terre Blanche had sex in the presence of two uniformed bodyguards was fantastic, literally incredible and wildly unlikely, Mr Gray said. He asked the jury to award Miss Allan substantial damages to reflect the damage to her reputation, her indignation and upset, her anxiety in awaiting the trial, her embarrassment, the harrowing ordeal of court, and the physical effect of the case.

Channel 4 had alleged she committed adultery "with a particularly nasty individual — a neo-Nazi, a racist and a bit of a buffoon". The programme had been broadcast three times to a total audience of 2.8 million, he said.

The hearing resumes today, when Mr Justice Potts will begin his summing-up.

AWB man stabbed

BY TIM JONES

A MAN understood to be the former European representative of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB), the extreme right-wing South African party led by Eugene Terre Blanche, was stabbed in the back during the lunch break in the Jani Allan libel trial yesterday.

Anthony Travers, believed to be in his mid-fifties, staggered wounded from the George public house, opposite the Law Courts in Strand, London. He was taken to St Bartholomew's hospital

and was treated for a punctured lung. Mr Travers later discharged himself against the advice of doctors. Scotland Yard said police were still searching for the attacker.

Mr Travers had been seen to display an AWB party card during the two weeks he had attended the trial. Mark Lehane, a newspaper seller, said: "He came out of the [pub] door, up the alley towards me and said 'The bastard stabbed me in the toilet'."



Arms of safety: Michael Nicholson, the ITN reporter, with nine-year-old Natasha Mihaljevic, whom he smuggled out of Bosnia by forging her name on his passport and pretending she was his daughter. Mr Nicholson, 55, brought her to live with his family in Grayswood, Surrey, two weeks ago but broke the news only yesterday. Natasha, who speaks only a few words of English, attached herself to the ITN crew which

was filming at her Sarajevo orphanage. Mr Nicholson decided to bring her home on the spur of the moment. "I have been transmitting all these stories from Sarajevo imploring people to do something about it. I then put my foot where my mouth was," he said. "We will just have to keep our fingers crossed that there will be a Bosnia for her to return to. I think I have done the right thing. I don't think I had a choice."

Student hit by 100mph police car, inquest told

AN UNMARKED police Range Rover travelling at up to 100 mph drove on after hitting a student on a pedestrian crossing, an inquest jury was told yesterday.

The accusation was made by the stepbrother of Benjamin Aran, 27, who died from multiple injuries after being struck by the vehicle which was on its way to arrest a suspected armed man in south London.

Amanuel Fasil, who lived with Mr Aran in Lambeth, south London, told Southwark coroner's court he and his friend leapt on to a traffic island. Mr Aran, an economics student at East London Polytechnic, was behind them on the crossing and was hit and catapulted across to the other side of Clapham Road.

The Range Rover drove on, but two police vehicles behind it stopped and called an ambulance. Mr Aran was certified dead later in hospital. Mr Fasil said they had been on their way home at about midnight on February 26 after drinking at a pub. He said: "We were walking when the vehicle came from nowhere. We jumped on to the island. I glimpsed my brother being hit by the car. For a split second, I could see his body flying."

Police Sergeant George Grant told the inquest he was a front seat passenger in the heavily-armoured Range Rover, which was one of a convoy of three police vehicles in search of a suspected contract killer. He admitted the Range Rover had been going fast as it turned into Clapham Road, but did not know at what speed it was travelling. Blue flashing lights and a two-tone horn on the vehicle were in use.

Sgt Grant said he saw two men on the road but could not say whether they were on the crossing or not. He then saw a third man run across the road and collide with the front door of the vehicle.

Inspector Andrew Lano, who was in the rear passenger seat of the Range Rover behind Sgt Grant when the incident happened, said the vehicle was "definitely" going faster than the road's 30mph speed limit. But he denied that the Range Rover did not stop after the impact.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Youth, 17, convicted of murder

A youth who admitted stabbing his family's lodger to death because he felt like it was convicted of murder at the Old Bailey yesterday. Jonathan Neill, 17, was ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure.

Martin Heslop, for the prosecution, said that Neill, 16 at the time of the killing, had returned to his family's home in Mitcham, south London, after an evening's drinking and had decided to murder Donald McKenzie, 36, his family's lodger. He went to the home of his friend, Eugene McLean, 23, to tell him what he had done. McLean was convicted of perverting the course of justice by disposing of the murder weapon and of Neill's blood-soaked trousers. He was jailed for two years.

Men stole bulbs

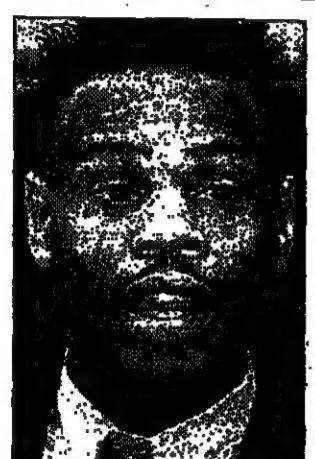
A man who dug up thousands of snowdrop bulbs from protected woods near Hunworth, Norfolk, was given a three-month suspended jail sentence yesterday by Norwich Crown Court. Michael Blair, 42, of Mildenhall, Suffolk, admitted theft of the bulbs from the Rectory Wood beauty spot. Harry Sands, 46, of Holt, Norfolk, an accomplice, who also admitted theft, was fined £25.

Jackson returns

Michael Jackson is to resume his tour in Cardiff tomorrow night after recovering from the illness that forced the late cancellation of his concert at Wembley on Saturday. The Wembley show has been rescheduled for August 23 and all tickets will be valid, his record company said last night. Any ticket-holder unable to attend should seek a full refund at the place of purchase before August 15.

Sailors killed

Two sailors died in a car crash in Devon early yesterday. Nicholas Moran, 22, and Paul Curran, 20, were travelling back to their Plymouth base after weekend leave in Devon, Manchester, when their car plunged into the back of a lorry parked in a lay-by near the Lee Mill Industrial estate in Plymouth.



Sandiford: upset by robbing room remarks

Clerk stole wig from barrister

A SOLICITOR'S clerk took revenge on a barrister who he believed racially abused him by stealing his wig as he was about to attend a hearing, a court was told yesterday.

John Sandiford, 29, a solicitor's clerk for seven years, of Barking, Essex, admitted stealing a wig and two collars last December. A charge of stealing Mr Laurence Marshall's gown was denied and stays on file.

Laure Oke, for the defence, told the Old Bailey that Sandiford was quite properly in the Southend Crown Court robbing room. He was wearing earphones, which prompted Mr Marshall to ask him what he was doing. Sandiford felt Mr Marshall used words to him which he considered racist and very upsetting," said Mr Oke.

Mr Marshall, who has since become a judge, returned to the robbing room to find his wig box gone and reported the matter to the police. The missing items were found 15 minutes later in the car park under Sandiford's car.

Mr Oke said the principal motivation in taking the items was to inconvenience Mr Marshall, who was already late for court. He added that the case was tragic and Sandiford, who lost his job, had acted out of character. He was still interested in the law and planned to continue with his studies.

Imposing a three-year conditional discharge and ordering Sandiford to pay £200 costs, Judge Rogers said he accepted that it was an isolated incident. "I hope you will live down this matter, but you are entirely a victim of your own conduct."

Police hope diary entry is clue to girl's strangling

BY LIN JENKINS

POLICE investigating the murder of Helen Gorrie, found strangled near her Hampshire home on Saturday, believe a diary entry might provide a clue to her death. She had recorded in the journal that on Friday night she planned to go for a drive with a male friend and she noted his first name.

Yesterday, the 15-year-old schoolgirl's mother Sheila urged anyone who knew of her daughter's movements from the time she left her home in Jodrell Close, Horndean, at midnight on Friday to come forward. She said: "I am numbed by the killing of my daughter, who was a lovely girl with a zest for life." Her son Jamie, 20,

comforted her as she sobbed at the press conference.

Ms Gorrie said she had no idea Helen had not come home on Saturday morning. Her body was found by guests at a wedding reception.

Det Supt Doug Quade, who is leading the enquiry, said she had not been sexually assaulted, but as her jeans were around her ankles it appeared there had been a sexual motive.

Ms Gorrie, 40, who is divorced from Helen's father, Robert Trueman, said Helen always came home, although sometimes as late as 2am.

On Friday she assumed her daughter had done the same. She later discovered that Helen had told her brother at

midnight that she was going out for a few minutes.

On Saturday evening when she returned from work she assumed Helen was watching videos with friends on the estate.

"On Sunday morning she was still not in, so I started asking her friends where she was and nobody had seen her. And one of the lads said a girl had been murdered," she said. She then went to the police station and discovered that the murdered girl was her daughter.

Helen, known as Purbrook Park School as Helen Clark, had together with her sister Deborah, 18, had made friends with a group of girls since they moved into the house in February.

Yesterday on the estate as police continued house-to-house enquiries friends and neighbours described her as a quiet girl who looked younger than her years. Wayne Weaver, 16, one of her close friends, said: "She was a nice girl. She never had a bad word to say about anyone."

Police were interviewing all her friends, including one who had been recalled from his camping holiday. A police spokesman said: "There is a diary with a note in it, which is one of our lines of enquiry."



Mrs Gorrie being comforted by her son

Father tells of Rachel's 'shining light'

THE life of Rachel Nickell, the young mother murdered as she walked with her son on Wimbledon Common, was celebrated yesterday at a funeral that her family was determined should not be sombre. Her father, Andrew Nickell, told friends and relatives at the service: "In my family we have a tradition of not mourning a death but celebrating a life."

Miss Nickell's son, Alexander, arrived clutching a heart-shaped silver balloon and her father read a poem that had been sent to the family. The congregation at the packed church of St Andrew's in Ampthill, Bedfordshire, heard Mr Nickell, 52, read: "Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there. I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glint on snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the gentle autumn rain." The final verse concluded: "Do

not stand at my grave and cry. I am not there. I did not die." The poem sent to Andrew Nanscombe, Alexander's father and Miss Nickell's boyfriend, was written by Stephen Cummings, 24, a British soldier who died in a car bomb in Northern Ireland in March 1989.

Mr Nickell, a businessman and former army officer who lives in Ampthill with his wife Monica, 48, described his daughter as an adoring and conscientious mother. He said: "I believe that the good that people do lives after them — bringing out the best in those that are left. I believe Rachel has bequeathed in the memory of all who knew her a positive force which will transform them in their lives ahead."

Mr Nickell had said before the service that it should be a time for the family to reflect on all the happy moments they had spent with Rachel, whose life he described as a shining

light. "She radiated love, good humour, warmth and generosity wherever she went. She had an unconscious capacity to bring out the best in the people she met."

David Lewthwaite, rural dean of Ampthill, said: "The family wanted the service to be a celebration of life but everybody there was conscious of the fact that here was a young woman of 23 who had been brutally murdered — that was on everyone's minds as well."

"People were quite emotional but there were not a great many tears in there. Everybody was concentrating. They were saying goodbye to a young woman who was full of life. Rachel's father was full of emotion when he read the poem, but he coped wonderfully well in the circumstances."

After the service, close family left for a private ceremony at Bedford crematorium.

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

Clever tactics and famous slogan boost sales of the black-wrapped product born in small Slough factory

Millions of Mars a day add up to healthy anniversary

BRITAIN'S most enduring nibble has reached its 60th anniversary. The Mars bar, chewed by children and adults alike, was launched with little fanfare from a one-room factory in Slough, Berkshire, in August 1932.

Since then Mars has defied all the laws of marketing. The caramel and nougat filling has not changed; the bar's weight has remained virtually the same at just over 60 grammes; and its black wrapping has resisted the hands of meddling marketing men.

The strategy has remained simple: to sell the chocolate from as many outlets as possible. This has been underlined by one of the most successful, and certainly the simplest, of advertising slogans. "A Mars a day helps you work, rest and play," runs the ditty launched in 1959.

It is not always a comfortable ride. Kit Kat outsells the Mars bar by £60 million. In 1991 Kit Kat's sales were worth £190 million compared with £130 million for Mars bars.

Last year food watchdogs, led by Action and Information on Sugars (AIS), tried to ban the Mars slogan on the basis that there was no scientific proof that chewing chocolate was of any benefit.

Jack Winkler, of AIS, said: "There is no scientific evidence whatsoever that Mars makes any positive contribution to working, resting or playing." After a 14-month deliberation the Independent Television Commission ruled in favour of the slogan.

Alan Mitchell, editor of

The Mars bar is still thriving after 60 years. Nicholas Watt reports on a success story that defies the laws of marketing

Marketing, said yesterday that the Mars strategy has been brilliant. "They think very carefully and in the long term. For example, they carried out three years of tests before launching Mars ice cream in 1989. This allowed the company to set up their own manufacturing technique that was uncopyable."

"Mars also maintain constant awareness by sponsoring key events such as the London Marathon, and supporting the British Olympic team in Barcelona."

Mars is working on an ambitious plan to follow the Japanese example of selling confectionery from public vending machines. Mr Mitchell said: "This would give Mars control of distribution and would mean that the product would be available 24 hours a day."

What do the food experts think of the bar? Keith Floyd, the television cook, said: "I have been eating Mars bars since as long as I can remember. I always

keep them in the fridge in quarter inch slices which I eat with crunchy sour apples."

"Mars is one of the few things that is so quintessentially British, like HP Sauce and Bird's Eye. When I was once in real trouble in my restaurant I melted down a Mars bar and poured it on ice cream. The customers were delighted."

Mars was launched in Britain by the American entrepreneur, Forrest E. Mars senior, after his father, Frank, gave him \$50,000 and the foreign rights to the Milky Way.

Frank had launched Milky Way in America in the 1920s after his son suggested that he should put a chocolate-malted drink in a candy bar. Forrest Mars senior was attracted by Britain's reputation for devouring chocolate which was fed by a line of manufacturers, including Rowntree's, Terry's and Cadbury's.

The British start was rela-

tively modest, with the factory in Slough employing 12 people. Within a year that had shot up to 100, and in the first year two million bars were sold.

That was followed by a British version of the Milky Way in 1935 and Maltessers in 1937. Those two were temporarily stopped during the war, but production of the Mars bars continued.

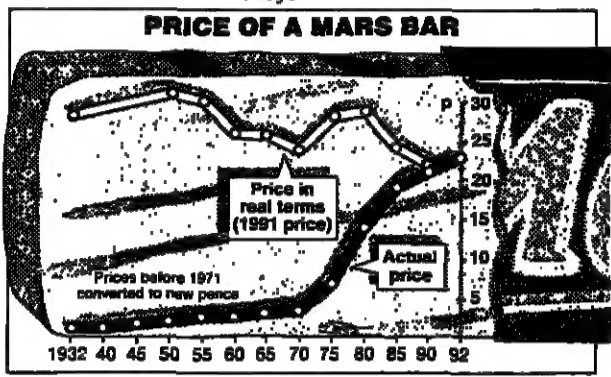
Today the Mars company has 18 per cent of all confectionery sales in Britain. The factory, which is still based in Slough, produces three million Mars bars a day.

Mars does not sell just chocolate. Its other brands include Uncle Ben's rice and Whiskas and Pedigree pet food.

The Slough factory is the British side of a worldwide operation which has annual sales of \$12 billion. Mars Inc is based in the Washington suburb of McLean, in Virginia, where Forrest Mars senior's two sons share the role of chief executive.

The family is highly secretive and shuns contact with the media. According to *Forbes* magazine the family is worth \$12.5 billion, making it the fifth richest family in the world.

Mars received its most impressive accolade when the *Financial Times* suggested that the bar was "a currency for our time". The paper's Lombard column said the Mars bar was a long-established basket of staple commodities, which include cocoa, vegetable fats, milk solids and sugar. It was also a much more reliable unit of account than gold, which is prone to speculation.



Hunt man admits he dug hole in badger set

A HUNT worker was given a conditional discharge yesterday after admitting interfering with a badger set. Paul Cheeseman, a kennelman, had put a terrier into the set to find a fox but had to dig the dog out when it became stuck.

The case was brought in Hertford magistrates court by the League Against Cruel Sports. The league accepted Cheeseman's plea of not guilty to obstructing the set, but guilty to interfering with it.

Tom Hart, for the prosecution, said that the set, in Bayford Wood, near Hertford, had been monitored for years by the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Badger Group which noticed, last December, that the entrances had been stopped up.

Cheeseman, then living in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, and working for the Enfield Chase Hunt, was questioned by police and said that he had dug the hole during a hunt the week before. He told police that he was unaware that a recent amendment to the Badger Act had made it illegal to interfere with sets in any way.

Andrew Peebles, for the defence, said that foxes frequently hid in badger sets during hunts and that it was accepted practice to plug the entrances loosely before a hunt.

He said that the practice was legal, providing the entrances were only loosely stopped and were cleared the same day. This had been done on the day of the offence, but the entrance in question had been missed, and a fox had dashed down it while being chased by hounds.

Acting under instructions from a hunt master, Cheeseman had put a terrier into the set in an attempt to find the fox, but it had got stuck. "There was nothing he could do except dig a hole which exposed the tunnel and he pulled out the terrier," Mr Peebles said.

After digging out the terrier, Cheeseman "went out of his way to rebuild the tunnel so there was no harm done whatsoever". He added that Cheeseman, who now works for the Taunton Vale Hunt, in Somerset, was unaware that he had committed an offence.

Cheeseman did not appear in court. The magistrates gave him a conditional discharge for 12 months and ordered him to pay £75 prosecution costs.

Prison prepares to hold Libyan bomb suspects

By KERRY GILL

A HIGH security unit is being built at Barmley Prison, Glasgow, to house the two Libyan agents suspected of bombing the Lockerbie hotel in which 259 passengers and crew, and 11 townspeople, died in December 1988.

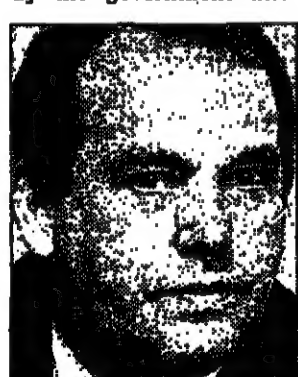
The unit will be sited near the main prison concourse and is being built under tight security. Last night Alan Walker, deputy chief executive of the Scottish Prison Service, said: "I am not prepared to comment on matters of physical security but you would expect us to take such action as is necessary to ensure we are prepared to meet all contingencies."

The move confirms the Crown Office's determination to have Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, the two agents, brought to trial in Scotland. Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, who was Lord Advocate until he was made Scottish minister of state after the general election, issued warrants for the agents' arrest last November and said they would be charged with murder, conspiracy and contravention of the Aviation Security Act.

Moves to have al-Megrahi and Fhimah brought to trial, either in Scotland or the United States, have so far failed.

but the prison service's move has demonstrated that the Crown has not given up hope of a trial at the High Court in Edinburgh. The Foreign Office said that it was keeping up pressure on Libya to hand over the agents.

Higher jail security for alleged terrorists was ordered by the government after



Lord Fraser: issued warrants for arrest

Nessan Quinnivan and Pearse McAuley, two IRA suspects, escaped from Brixton Prison last year.

If al-Megrahi and Fhimah are brought to Scotland they will first be taken to Dumfries police headquarters, passing within yards of where the Boeing 747's fuselage crashed in a ball of flame.

Lockerbie lies within the domain of the Sheriff of South Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway, and the two men would be charged by Dumfries and Galloway police before being taken to cells to await their first appearance before a Scottish sheriff on the first court day which was available.

At court the two would undergo committal proceedings in front of the sheriff, the procurator fiscal, a sheriff clerk and the defending solicitors. All proceedings would be held in private. Al-Megrahi and Fhimah would be formally identified by the sheriff clerk. Bail would be out of the question on charges so serious.

Al-Megrahi and Fhimah would have to be brought back to Dumfries sheriff court for full committal within eight days. A trial must take place within 110 days from their first appearance or the charges would fall. If the 110 day period overran, they would be put on the first plane back to Tripoli. They would have to be served with the full indictment within 80 days or, again, they would have to be freed. The indictments must be served 29 full days before the trial, which almost certainly would take place in Edinburgh.

'School racism' meeting cancelled

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ASIAN community leaders last night accused Berkshire County Council of running from media coverage, after the late cancellation of a meeting to discuss allegations of "institutional racism" at the Slough and Eton Church of England school in Slough.

The school, where 98 per cent of pupils are Asian but most staff and governors are white, has already been the subject of a council enquiry, which discovered problems of "communication". A 1,000 name petition handed into the council complained of "Euro-centric" bias at the voluntary-controlled school and alleged that a Muslim candidate for the headship was passed over on racial grounds.

Many parents are calling for the school to opt out of local authority control if their demands for greater representation are not met. Chaudhry Ifkhar Ahmed, the president of the Pakistan Welfare Association in Slough, said: "Basically, the council doesn't want to confront the media. In my opinion that's what's happened. This will increase the pressure to opt out."

Tourists shun credit cards

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

TOURISTS and business travellers are leaving their plastic credit cards at home and returning to travellers' cheques to keep their foreign spending under control.

In the first six months of this year Thomas Cook issued 16 per cent more travellers' cheques than in the same period last year and the company says that demand has soared this summer.

"The recession has forced people to want to keep a very tight rein on their finances when on holiday, while businessmen want to see at a glance what they are spending on trips abroad," Chris Rodriguez, group managing director for Thomas Cook, said. "Children can use them because they are safe money, while adults can control their spending far more accurately when they can see what they have left in their wallet."

"If a family knows it has only a certain amount of money left they can decide whether they should spend it on a meal, entertainment or new clothes. People are no longer prepared to run up debts each month."

The increase in travellers' cheque sales is also partly caused by more demand from Eastern Europe, where travel has been growing rapidly.

for Thomas Cook and helped to turn last year's first half £4 million loss into a £13 million profit. "The £7.4 million we made was simply on the cheques we had delivered to banks and our high street branches," Mr Rodriguez said. "It was even higher if the profit on the actual sales is included."

American Express agrees that the trend is away from credit. "The number of travellers' cheques we issued in June was 50 per cent up on the same month last year," John Crewe, Amex Travel managing director, said.

There was a move away from continual credit. "A year ago 60 per cent of credit card holders did not pay off all that they owed while only 40 per cent did, but now the figures are completely reversed," American Express, which operates a charge card rather than a credit card, says that there has also been an increase in the average amount being spent on charge cards.

"because people now like the discipline of paying off their debts each month". The increase in travellers' cheque sales is also partly caused by more demand from Eastern Europe, where travel has been growing rapidly.

Janet Daley, page 10

Chemical to fight bee disease is licensed

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A NEW chemical for treating a parasitic disease threatening to wipe out the British honeybee population was granted a licence yesterday by the agriculture ministry. Beekeepers welcomed the product, manufactured by Bayer, the multi-national chemical company, but said they were worried that many hive owners would not bother to use it or would find it too expensive.

The varroa mite, which sucks the blood of larvae and adult bees, was first detected in Devon in April last year and has since been found in 132 apiaries belonging to 94 beekeepers in 11 counties in southern England. Infestation is high in north Devon, west Somerset, the Isle of Wight and northwest Surrey.

A six-week course of treatment, costing £5 a hive, involves hanging plastic strips impregnated with flumethrin, a synthetic pyrethroid, between the combs. Bees crawling over the strips distribute the chemical round the colony. The treatment has to be repeated every season to prevent re-infestation.

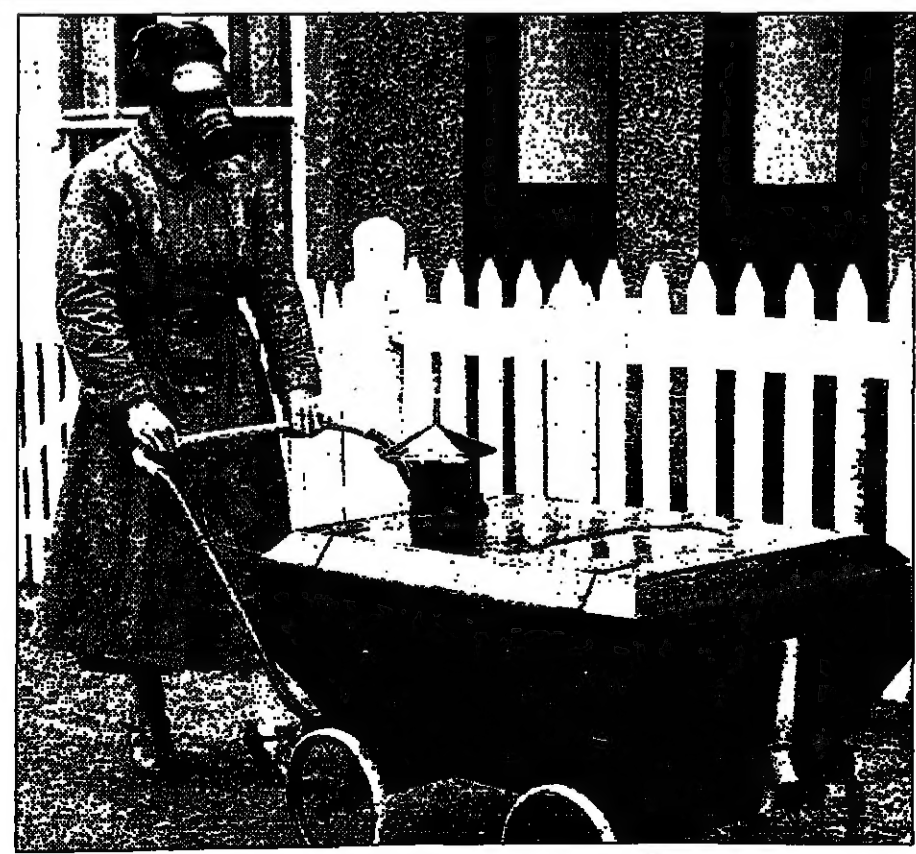
Peter Watson, technical manager of Bayer's veterinary division, said: "The chemical will kill 98 per cent of the mites but has no harmful effect on the bees and leaves no detectable trace in the honey."

Brian Stenhouse, general secretary of the Bee Farmers Association, said that the cost of the treatment could push many of the 400 commercial beekeepers he represents "dangerously close to unviability". Eric Fenner, chairman of the Royal British Beekeepers' Association, which has 13,500 members pursuing apiculture as a hobby, said varroa posed the most daunting challenge ever faced by the industry.

Mr Fenner said up to half of all beekeepers did not belong to an organisation and that many were probably unaware of the danger of varroa. "There is a major communication and education exercise to be undertaken," he said.

Varroa is widespread on the Continent but has been kept under control. There is no known means of eradicating the mite once it has gained a foothold.

Britain's farmers and horticulturalists rely heavily on honeybees for the pollination of up to 70 fruit, vegetable and arable crops.



Early hi-tech: the Mills gas-proof pram of 1938

Dartford, home of genius, claims its place in history

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

WHILE the world at large might credit Dartford in Kent with little more than a road tunnel and a river crossing, local historians claim the town has basked in the creative genius of its residents for more than three hundred years.

To support the claim, the local council has published *Brain Waves*, a potted history of Dartford's place in world scientific and technological affairs. It gives Edward Mills, a 77-year-old resident, top billing.

As the second world war neared, Mr Mills was busy producing "prototypes of equipment with the potential to make an important contribution to the war effort", the most curious of which was a gas-proof pram designed to protect babies from chemical attack. The Heath Robinson device had a gas filter fixed to the top as a chimney and an old horn

bulb to allow mothers to pump in fresh air to the child within. They could tell their babies were able to breathe by monitoring a lighted candle that went out if there was no air.

The invention had trials at Dartford, but never got off the ground. As with many British inventions it achieved international acclaim but was never adopted by the British government, say the book's authors.

The same disappointment met Augustus Applegarth, who established a silk and calico printing works in the market town and lived in the area for 40 years. In 1818 he persuaded the Bank of England to allow him to print supposedly forgery-proof notes on a machine that made 1,200 an hour. The bank acquired four million of the six-colour notes but they were never issued.

The project cost the bank £40,000, of which £4,000 went to Mr Applegarth and his brother-in-law.

Happily for Dartford, whose book has been sponsored by the Wellcome Foundation, some of the town's scientific sons have enjoyed greater success. Sir Hiram Maxim, inventor of the automatic machinegun, moved to Dartford in 1884 to set up the Maxim Nordenfeldt Gun and Ammunition Company, later Vickers, Son and Maxim.

Bryan Donkin, who in 1806 revolutionised the paper industry by making a machine that produced continuous rolls, worked in Dartford, where he also set up the world's first food canning factory.

Even Mr Applegarth later achieved success. He invented a revolutionary printing machine upon which *The Times* was printed in the mid-nineteenth century.

Even Mr Applegarth later achieved success. He invented a revolutionary printing machine upon which *The Times* was printed in the mid-nineteenth century.

BR to scrap InterCity service to Blackpool

By RONALD FAUX

THE InterCity rail service between London and Blackpool is to be withdrawn from September 29, British Rail confirmed yesterday. The cost of linking the train to a diesel locomotive for the short section between the electrified west coast line at Preston and Blackpool is too high, a spokesman said.

On average, only 31 passengers a day travel direct between London and Blackpool during the week on trains designed to hold more than 400. Five daily services will be withdrawn and passengers obliged to transfer to local trains. Among them will be the Lancashire Pullman. This service will now operate to and from Lancaster.

Barry Morris, director of tourism for Blackpool, said that the announcement was bad news for the resort, which has 17 million visitors a year, and he was concerned about the impact on Blackpool's conference trade. "This is thriving, with the TUC and Labour party coming here towards the end of the year. Instead of travelling direct to Blackpool people will now suffer the inconvenience of carrying their luggage over a bridge or through a tunnel to get the connection at Preston. It is a direct consequence of not having an electrified line between Blackpool and Preston, something we have been pressing for and have been promised over a number of years," he said.

Mr Morris admitted that fewer than 10 per cent of visitors arrived by rail. Blackpool central station had been axed in the Beeching cuts and the land turned into the largest coach park in Europe.



Knapp: privatisation claims have hollow ring

"We are now very glad we went down that road," he added.

Ivor Warburton, director of InterCity West Coast, said yesterday that the changes followed the annual review of routes and services and resulted from low use of the trains for through travel.

The west coast line was the first to be electrified in the sixties and requires upgrading. The cost of this is likely to be £750 million.

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers, the main rail union, said the decision was a practical consequence of last month's white paper paving the way for the privatisation of BR. "It is already clear that the urgently needed modernisation of the west coast main line to Scotland will be deferred, if not abandoned. The government's claim that privatisation will improve quality and provide a wider choice of services has a very hollow ring."

John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, gave a warning of further cuts. He feared a secret pact between John MacGregor, the transport secretary, and Richard Branson, the founder and chairman of the Virgin Group, who wants to run private rail services. "Network services are being sacrificed to allow Virgin to play trains at profitable route times," Mr Prescott said.

Nick Harvey, the Liberal Democrat transport spokesman, said British Rail was forced to axe the service "because of the government's ghoulish greed for strict financial returns". He added: "They have replaced it with a 'ghost train' and the growing fear of skeletal services."

Mr Branson denied a secret pact with the government. "We would agree with Mr Prescott that places such as Shrewsbury, Tescote and Blackpool deserve better, but he knows well that these cuts have been planned for years," he said. "Virgin believes that private operators should not be allowed on the network unless they pledge to re-open as many of these services as possible."

Leading article, page 11

NEWS IN BRIEF

Publicans held over beer thefts

Seventeen publicans, ten tanker drivers and a brewery worker have been arrested and released on police bail after investigations into the alleged theft of beer worth thousands of pounds at John Smith's brewery in Tadcaster, North Yorkshire.

Police have been making enquiries for several weeks and Courage, which owns John Smith's, has also launched an investigation. Investigations by the company and the police have centred on the alleged theft of cellar tank beer, distributed by tanker to large public houses and clubs.

Wife grabbed

Armed raiders grabbed the wife of an off-duty detective constable who riddled them as they tried to rob a security van in Friern Barnet, north London. The robbers took the officer's car, forced his wife into it and dumped her unhurt half a mile away.

Freedom nears

Baroness Susan de Stempel, 58, jailed for seven years in 1990 for defrauding her senile aunt out of £500,000, is due to be freed from prison on Thursday. She earned remission and account was taken of two years spent on remand.

Crash verdict

British Rail has blamed a "factor of human error" in its enquiry into a head-on crash between two passenger trains in Leeds on May 22 which injured 25 people. The Rail-injury Inspectorate will decide if a public hearing should be held.

Car boy dies

A 15-year-old boy drowned when a stolen car he was driving crashed into a stream at Newport, Gwent. Three boys with him were unhurt.

Postman took 670 sick days

By TIM JONES

A SENIOR postman was dismissed from his £14,000 a year job after taking 670 days in sick leave in 18 years, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

John Dempster, 45, was dismissed by the Royal Mail when his attendance record failed to improve after he received 16 warnings. Two were final.

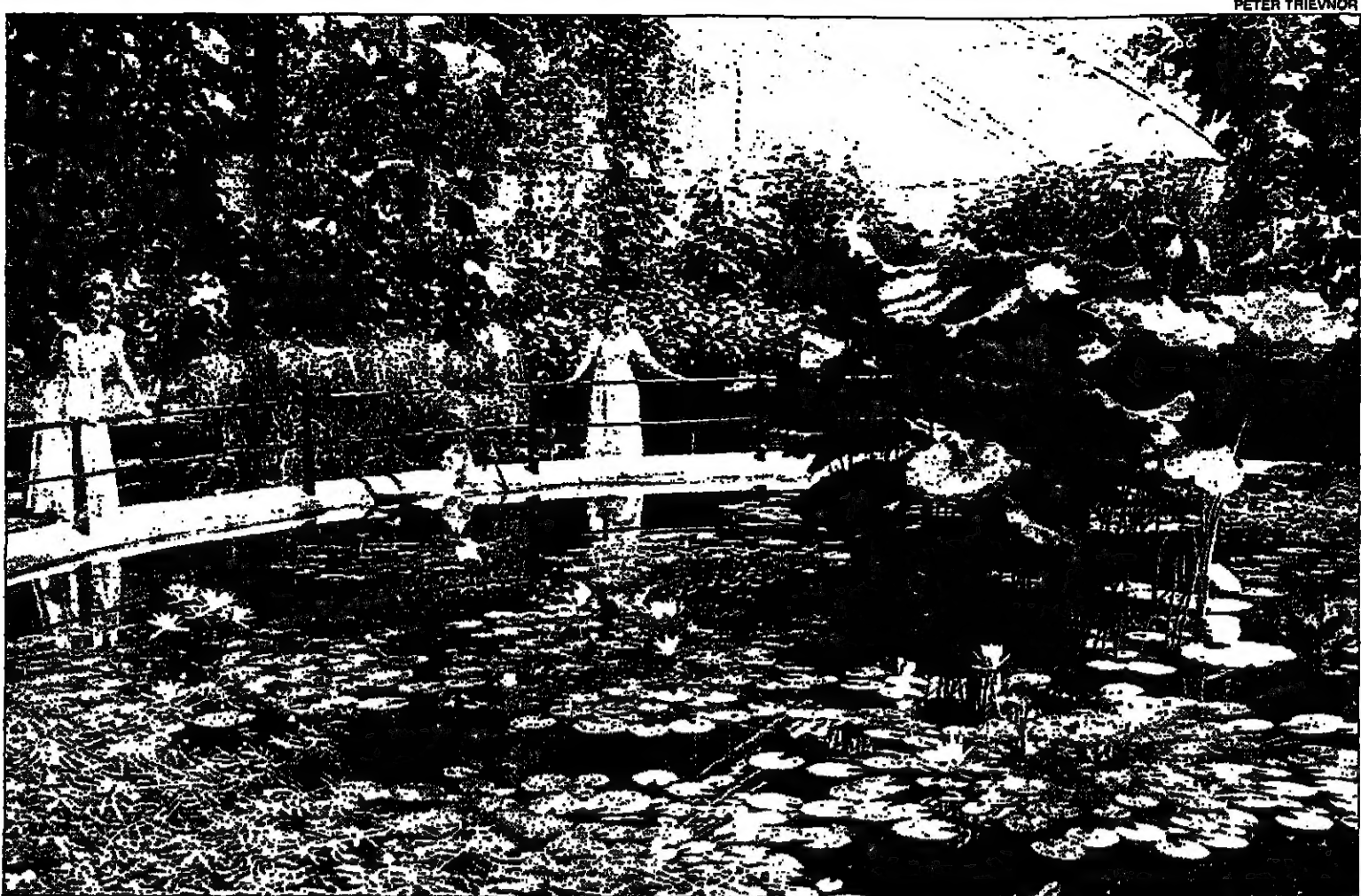
Jim Ketteridge, a company personnel manager, described the sickness record as incredible. Neither the Royal Mail doctor nor Mr Dempster's GP, who both examined him, could find anything serious enough to justify his absences.

In his last five years of service, Mr Dempster, who was dismissed a year ago, failed to turn up on 384 occasions, an annual average of 77 days or 15 working weeks.

Mr Ketteridge said that before July 1987, when Mr Dempster was involved in a car crash, his reasons for sickness were varied. After the accident his excuses usually related to a knee which he had injured in the crash.

Dr Iwan Thomas, the company doctor, said there was "no substantial medical reason to account for the absences". Mr Ketteridge said that Mr Dempster's attendance did not improve after the examination. "It appeared we had reached the end of the road," he said. Although Mr Dempster, who was based at a sorting office at Harlow, Essex, was confined to indoor duties to make his job easier, he still took days off.

Mr Dempster, who claimed that he was eligible for retirement on health grounds, says that he was unfairly dismissed. The hearing continues.



Tropical flavour: the listed water lily house built in 1852 by Richard Turner, the structural engineer, at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, south London, reopened yesterday after 12 months of restoration. Flowering displays may be extended to 11 months a year

Doctors 'beating cancer'

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

DOCTORS are slowly winning the war against cancer, with important advances against cancers of the stomach, lungs, colon and rectum, as well as childhood cancers, according to Sir Richard Doll, a leading international authority on the disease.

While the overall death rate from cancer continues to rise, that is a consequence of more people living longer. Sir Richard writes in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. The cancer mortality among those between 25 and 49 — the age group showing the effects of recent improvements in health education, screening, and treatment — shows a clear-cut trend, he says.

Among men mortality has fallen by 20 per cent since the early 1970s, and among women by 15 per cent. The greatest success is in stomach cancer, which shows an "enormous reduction in mortality", says Sir Richard, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's cancer studies unit in Oxford. Lung cancer is down by 44 per cent in men and 20 per cent in women as a result of reduced smoking.

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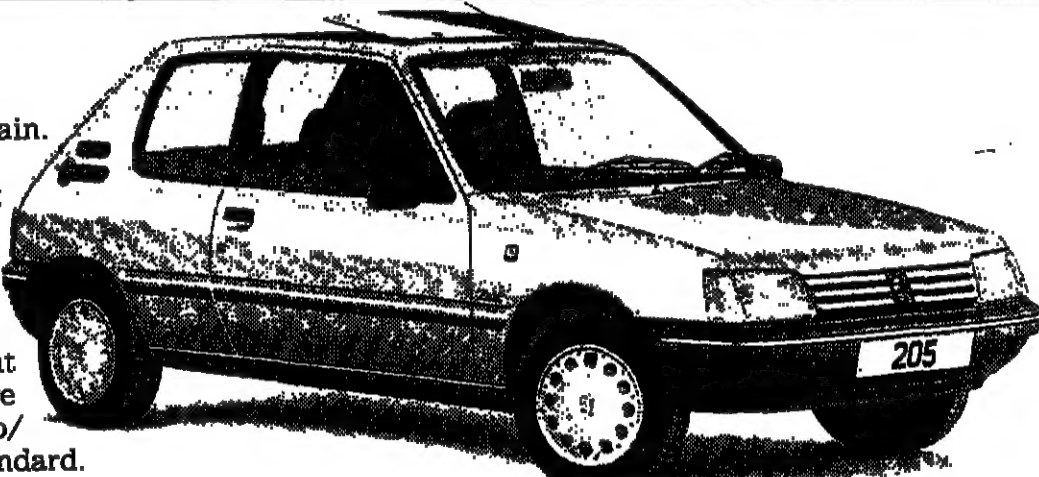
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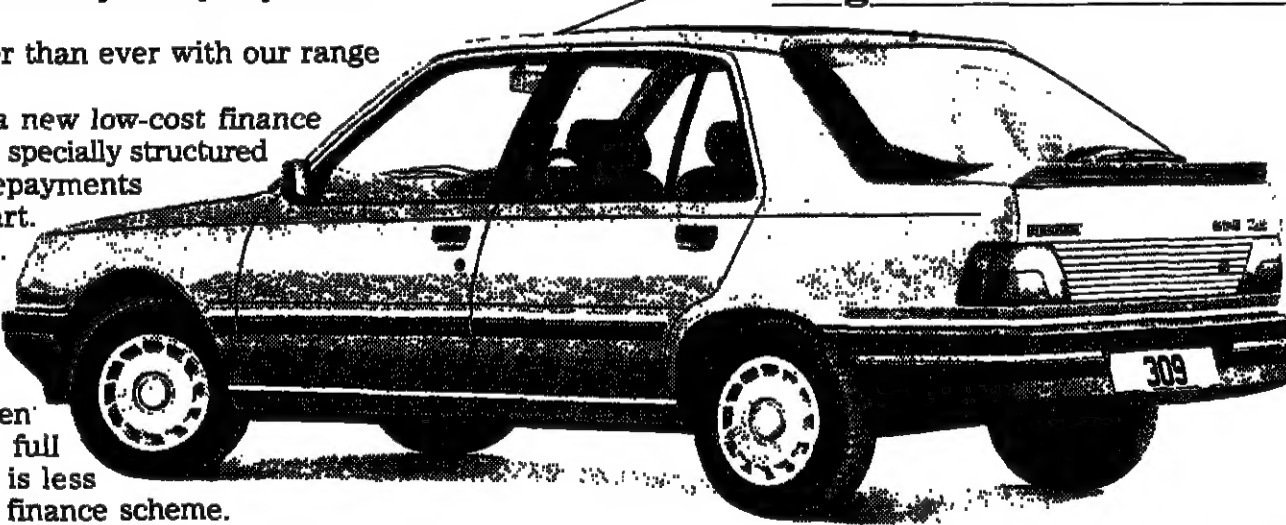
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ON THE ROAD PRICE**	£8,585	ON THE ROAD PRICE**	£8,585
DEPOSIT (25%)	£2,146.25	DEPOSIT (25%)	£2,146.25
FINANCE CHARGES	£1,368.18	FINANCE CHARGES	£1,368.06
TOTAL PAYABLE	£8,963.18	TOTAL PAYABLE	£8,963.06
LOAN PERIOD	36 MONTHS	LOAN PERIOD	36 MONTHS
MONTHLY REPAYMENT	£215.58	MONTHLY REPAYMENT	£163.89 (1-12 MONTHS) £209.09 (13-24 MONTHS) £274.66 (25-36 MONTHS)
APR %	14.9%	APR %	12.3%

*EXCLUDES ADDITIONAL ON-THE-ROAD COSTS OF £495 FOR 12 MONTH ROAD TAX, DELIVERY TO DEALERSHIP AND NUMBER PLATE. **INCLUDES EXHIBITED ON-THE-ROAD COSTS OF £495 FOR 12 MONTH ROAD TAX, DELIVERY TO DEALERSHIP AND NUMBER PLATE. *EXCLUDES ADDITIONAL ON-THE-ROAD COSTS OF £495 FOR 12 MONTH ROAD TAX, DELIVERY TO DEALERSHIP AND NUMBER PLATE. **INCLUDES EXHIBITED ON-THE-ROAD COSTS OF £495 FOR 12 MONTH ROAD TAX, DELIVERY TO DEALERSHIP AND NUMBER PLATE. *EXCLUDES ADDITIONAL ON-THE-ROAD COSTS OF £495 FOR 12 MONTH ROAD TAX, DELIVERY TO DEALERSHIP AND NUMBER PLATE. **INCLUDES EXHIBITED ON-THE-ROAD COSTS OF £495 FOR 12 MONTH ROAD TAX, DELIVERY TO DEALERSHIP AND NUMBER PLATE.



PEUGEOT'S WINNING FORMULA THIS SUMMER.

THE LION GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.

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Interim Results 1992

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	Six months to 30th June 1992	1991	Full Year 1991
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
	£m	£m	£m
Net interest receivable	600	561	1,143
Other income and charges	144	102	458
Operating expenses	(336)	(297)	(635)
Provisions for loans and advances	(138)	(58)	(196)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	270	308	648
Taxation	(97)	(103)	(204)
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	173	205	444
Dividends	(50)	(46)	(138)
Retained profit for the period	123	159	306
Earnings per share (pence)	13.2	15.7	11.6
Dividends per share (pence)	3.8	3.5	10.5

PERFORMANCE OF MAIN BUSINESS AREAS

	Six months to 30th June 1992	1991	Full Year 1991
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
	£m	£m	£m
UK Retail Operations	229	200	385
European Operations	51	20	62
Life Assurance	(11)	(7)	(19)
Other Operations	(22)	(5)	(20)
GRAND TOTAL	270	308	648

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

	30th June 1992	1991	Full Year 1991
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
	£m	£m	£m
Liquid Assets and Securities	15,415	10,922	15,188
Commercial Assets	41,763	37,164	39,686
Fixed Assets	498	394	489
Other Assets	2,532	1,225	2,042
Total Assets	60,208	49,705	57,405
Reserve Funds and Deposits	33,410	31,924	32,711
Non-Retail Funds and Deposits	21,043	13,182	19,642
Other Liabilities	2,741	1,739	2,081
Shareholders' Funds	3,014	2,860	2,971
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Funds	60,208	49,705	57,405

Profitability and dividends

Group pre-tax profit for the half year was £270 million compared with £308 million in the first half of 1991, a decrease of 12%. Group pre-tax profit before loan provisions and deferred interest was £435 million, up 12% from £389 million at the interim stage in 1991. The continuing depressed state of the UK housing market has led to increased levels of provisions, and these were largely responsible for the fall in profits.

Post-tax earnings were £173 million (1991: £205 million). This results in earnings per share of 13.2 pence compared with 15.7 pence for the same period in 1991. The Board has declared an interim dividend of 3.8 pence, an increase of 8.6% over last year.

Net interest income and margin

Net interest income increased by 7% from £561 million to £600 million, largely as a result of growth of 21% in Group assets, to £60.2 billion.

The Group margin narrowed from 2.35% to 2.05%, principally as a result of three factors: an increase in treasury assets, which earn a narrower margin; the interest earnings foregone following the investment in Scottish Mutual; and lower interest rates leading to reduced earnings on the Group's free capital. The UK retail margin widened to 2.07% from 2.03% achieved in the same half in 1991. This was after a charge for deferral of interest on a proportion of mortgage accounts in arrears amounting to £27 million (£23 million).

Other income and charges

Other income and charges increased from £102 million to £144 million. The embedded value profit generated by Scottish Mutual accounted for £15 million of the increase. A further £11 million of the increase is explained by the inclusion of dividend earnings from certain treasury investment assets.

The remainder of the increase primarily relates to increased earnings from survey and administration fees, and a reduced loss from Abbey National Homes Ltd.

Total operating income

In total, operating income grew from £463 million at the interim stage in 1991 to £744 million at the same stage in 1992, an increase of 17%.

Operating expenses

Operating expenses increased by 13% from the first half of 1991, to £336 million. Investment in the branch network and in information technology continued, leading to a £13 million increase in the charge for depreciation. Further costs of £2 million have been incurred in setting up our new life assurance company, Abbey National Life, which becomes operational in 1993. Staff costs increased by £12 million as a result of a headcount increase of 5% and average wage increase of 6%.

The Group's cost:income ratio of 45.2% compares with 44.8% at the same stage last year.

Provisions for loans and advances

Provisions for loans and advances charged for the half year were £138 million, compared with £58 million at the interim stage in 1991, and £97 million in the second half of 1991. Of this charge, £108 million relates to UK residential mortgages (£36 million).

The increased charge against mortgages results principally from the continued fall in UK house prices. This fall is reflected in increased average provisions per repossessed property. For those properties on which purchase offers have been received, average provisions have increased from £9,100 at June 1991, to £12,000 at December 1991 and £14,500 at June 1992.

The number of repossessions has continued to decline: 4,636 in the first half of 1991, 4,235 in the second half, and 4,139 in the first half of 1992. The stock of properties in possession has, however, increased from 8,732 at the end of 1991 to 9,609.

The number of mortgage accounts six months or more in arrears has risen from 19,000 at the end of 1991 to 20,700. This represents 1.76% of total accounts, compared with the Council of Mortgage Lenders' average of 3.11%. The number of accounts less than 6 months in arrears has fallen by 15% since December 1991.

While the underlying trends in both mortgage arrears and repossessions are improving, there remains a general lack of market confidence. It is difficult to gauge the precise timing of any housing market recovery, either in activity or in prices. Against this background, a general provision of £30 million (£3 million) has been made against UK residential mortgages.

Other provisions total £30 million (£22 million) and are principally against loans made by Abbey National's European businesses and also against unsecured lending in the UK.

Capital expenditure

The Group continues to invest for the future, with capital expenditure in the first half totalling £48 million (£65 million). The major element of this relates to the continuing programme to enhance the UK retail network.

UK Retail Operations

Earnings from UK Retail Operations were £229 million in the first half of 1992 compared with £300 million at the interim stage in 1991. Operating profit before provisions and deferred interest was broadly unchanged at £375 million (£377 million). A small increase in the retail net interest margin was more than offset by the increase in provisions, and by the reduced earnings on the Group's

free capital.

Abbey National's share of total UK net mortgage lending was an estimated 12.5% in the first half of 1992 (first half 1991: 12.5%). The emphasis on quality lending continues. Increased competition from National Savings products has contributed to Abbey National's share of the UK liquid saving market falling to an estimated 3.6% from 12.5% at the interim stage in 1991. We continue to place a high priority on maintaining margins between mortgage and savings rates.

The Company has agreed reduced levels of mortgage indemnity guarantee cover with its insurers. The new arrangements are coming into force, for new business only, over the course of this summer. The Company is, however, considering ways of pricing loans to reflect risk more closely and evaluating other possibilities which will also control our risk exposure.

Treasury Operations

Treasury Operations has continued to build a portfolio of high quality investment assets. These assets increased to £16.9 billion at the half year from £16.0 billion at the end of 1991 (June 1991: £11.4 billion). Pre-tax profit increased to £25 million from £10 million in the first half of 1991. The risk aversion approach taken by Treasury Operations, together with the policy of possible foreign exchange exposure, underpins the expected growth in earnings from this business.

Life Assurance

Scottish Mutual continues to suffer from conditions in the housing market, with losses of £10 million (£7 million). Despite reduced market activity, the number of homes sold by Commonwealth was 2% higher than in the first half of 1991. Income was depressed, however, by the fall in average house prices.

Life Assurance

Scottish Mutual became part of the Abbey National Group at the beginning of the year. The business generated embedded value profits of £16 million in the first six months. After allowing for the interest foregone on the sum invested in Scottish Mutual, the contribution was neutral, and in line with expectations at the time of the acquisition.

New business premium income for the first half of 1992 totalled £68 million, an increase of 37% on the first half of 1991. Investment performance remains satisfactory.

We are encouraged by the way Scottish Mutual has become an integral part of our business so rapidly, and by the contribution it is making to the Group, particularly in the expertise being provided in setting up Abbey National Life. Our plan for Abbey National Life to begin trading on 1st February 1993 is on schedule.

Other Operations

Other Operations made an aggregate loss of £1 million in the first half of the year, compared with a loss of £5 million at the interim stage in 1991. These operations include Abbey National Financial Services, Abbey National Homes and our European and offshore subsidiaries. Results in France and Spain were depressed by increased provisions, as their economies turned down. Modest expansion in Europe continues, however, and Abbey National now operates from 32 European and offshore offices.

Capital adequacy

The group remains well capitalised with a total risk asset ratio of 10.5% and Tier 1 Capital of 11.4%. £117 million of subordinated debt was raised earlier this year, although gearing remains low with Tier 2 Capital at 18% of Tier 1.

Future prospects

At the AGM in April we stated that 1992 would be a difficult year for Abbey National and the interim Results bear this out. The recession is having a marked effect on the UK housing market, and on mortgage arrears and repossessions in particular. Abbey National has not been immune to this, and has therefore made substantial provisions.

While there is currently no clear evidence of recovery in the housing market, we have seen a downward trend in repossessions and new mortgage arrears. The development of our life assurance and treasury businesses are on target, and we continue to invest for the future in our retail network and information technology. The Group is backed by a strong capital base and a commitment to cost control.

The 8.6% increase in the interim dividend payment to 3.8 pence per share is in line with the declared intention to provide shareholders with real dividend growth. This reflects the Board's confidence that the business is proving resilient in the face of difficult conditions, and that the appropriate strategies are in place to ensure future profitable growth.

Dividend dates

The ex-dividend date is August 10th; the record date is August 21st; the payment date is October 12th.



The habit of a lifetime

The basis for calculating the number of mortgage arrears cases and the total number of mortgages has been adjusted to reflect the number of borrowers, rather than the number of mortgage accounts. This is in line with industry practice and has not altered the underlying trend. The financial information for the year ended 31st December 1991 included in this report is based on the statutory accounts which have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies. The auditors' report on these accounts was unqualified and did not include a statement under Section 237(2) or (3) of the Companies Act 1985. For copies of this statement, please contact The Investor Relations Department, Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL.

German MPs defend orphan mission

Bonn shifts line on Balkan evacuations

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THE death of two orphaned children in Sarajevo's "Sniper Alley" on Saturday has forced leading German politicians to think again about the wisdom of trying to evacuate refugees from the Balkans.

In recent weeks Germany has accused countries such as Britain of callousness for refusing to receive many more refugees from the civil war. But now the mood has changed, with Rudolf Seiters, the interior minister responsible for refugees, advising the government that priority should be given to on-the-spot help. Ejup Ganic, the Bosnian vice-president, and Ivan Illic, the Croatian ambassador in

Bonn, have told the German authorities that help delivered in their countries will be far more effective than help in moving refugees out.

A survey this week by *Der Spiegel* suggests that German enthusiasm for taking in refugees is on the wane. The growing realisation that refugees taken in are unlikely ever to return home, plus the fact that very few of those in need can be offered refuge, is changing public attitudes.

Recommitments are growing over who was responsible for allowing a busload of tiny children to drive down such a hazardous road at dusk, when fighting is most likely to flare

up. The evacuation was planned by Jürgen Angelbeck and Karsten Knolle, members of the Saxony-Anhalt parliament, who told German television yesterday that they had only wanted to help the children escape from danger.

West Germans who moved to the East just before unification, the pair won seats in the state in October 1990. Herr Knolle is a former army officer who worked as a journalist for 20 years. He moved east to work for the Christian Democrats and won a seat for them in the state election. He left the party last year and is now an independent.

Herr Angelbeck was wages secretary of the public service union before he moved east in 1990 to act as a trade union adviser. Elected in the state election as a Social Democrat, he left his party last year and, after a time as an independent, now has the status of "guest" of the Christian Democrat faction in parliament.

Reinhard Hötner, the Social Democrat leader in Saxony-Anhalt, calls them "adventurers who ruthlessly exploited the suffering of orphans to seek personal advantage". The two had first suggested bringing children from the orphanage to Saxony-Anhalt at the beginning of July, but the idea was rejected out of hand by Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who said it was too dangerous. However, the two hitched a ride on a Luftwaffe flight to Sarajevo and returned to give the state parliament a heartrending description of conditions in the city.

They were promised that the state would take care of the children and grant them residents' permits if they were brought back and that transport would be provided from Split. They were left to arrange the transport from Sarajevo to the Adriatic, although the state's social security ministry was consistently critical of any attempt to evacuate the children without UN protection.

A foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday that the two men had been officially advised against trying to evacuate the children from Sarajevo. He said they had been told by the ministry that nobody should attempt any action unless the UN officials on the spot were prepared to give their backing.

The Children's Embassy charity in Sarajevo, which runs the orphanage involved, failed to persuade the UN to help but believed it had a guaranteed safe passage for the evacuation by bus negotiated for today. But Herr Knolle, understood that there was a guarantee from the Serbs, provided the bus left at once. Speaking on German television from Sarajevo yesterday, Drago Bozja, of the Children's Embassy, said the evacuation had been in the best interests of the orphans.

David Owen, page 10

Cocktails stir a shaken Sarajevo

The pianist plays Chopin while the shells rain down. Adam LeBor samples pre-dinner drinks in Sarajevo.

A PIANIST entertains on the mezzanine floor, giving a spirited rendition of some Viennese waltzes, followed by Chopin's Revolutionary Etude. Waiters in tuxedos and bow ties glide to and fro with trays of iced drinks.

The sylvan scene could be happening at a luxury hotel anywhere in the world, except the receptionist keeps an AK-47 under the counter, the plate glass in the foyer has been shot to pieces and the sun sets to a symphony of booming artillery. Occasionally the building shakes as it is hit by machinegun fire or artillery shells. Yes, once again it's time for pre-dinner drinks at the Holiday Inn in Sarajevo.

But do not step outside the foyer to take the air before eating. The front entrance is covered by a sniper, with several hits on his scorecard. When a hotel technician had to venture out to fix a water tap, the manager stood poised in the entrance, sub-machinegun at the ready to give him covering fire.

Not all tasks at the hotel were so risky. One morning we came down to find one of the staff behind the reception desk sorting through a pile of publicity leaflets. Across the top of each one was emblazoned: "Holiday Inn, Sarajevo, Yugoslavia." Black marker in hand, he was carefully inking out the word "Yugoslavia" on each flyer before neatly piling them up again. "What are you doing," we asked, intrigued. "Dead country," he replied, shaking his head.

War is hell of, course, but what can you do but laugh when BBC Radio One rings up a BBC reporter to announce that Simon Bates, the disc jockey usually to be seen on the streets of Clacton or Bognor Regis, wants to come to Sarajevo and can someone please arrange transport from the airport?

The Holiday Inn cocktail hour was just one of several bizarre and surreal touches to a week in Sarajevo. As we sat around one evening mulling over the day's events, deciding whose turn it was to buy the drinks, a shell loudly exploded somewhere nearby. "Who's round is it anyway?" someone enquired. "Bosnian army, I believe," came the reply.

Somehow thanks to a complicated series of deals with the local militias, the Holiday Inn is kept supplied with food and drink. One lunchtime we sat around picking at an unappetising and oily looking stew. Kevin Connolly, a newly arrived BBC radio reporter, was wolfing his dinner. "This is great," he said enthusiastically. "Where have you been then?" someone asked. "I just spent a month in Nagorno-Karabakh," he replied.

Probably the most entertaining were the French journalists. One, a newspaper reporter, seemed to take a lot of risks. He liked to visit Dobrinje, the encircled suburb that is a siege within a siege, and stay there overnight. At breakfast the next morning I asked him how his night had been.

He said it was fine, if a bit noisy, but the food was really very good. "I had a pizza," he said proudly. "It was very nice but when I looked at it I saw something stinging there and I did not know if it was a bullet or an olive."



Child of war: Eldina Memić is led through a hospital in Sarajevo after being hit by shrapnel in the Bosnian capital yesterday. Her sister was also injured

Tudjman upsets prophets by taking lead in Croatian poll

FROM TIM JUDAH IN ZAGREB

PRESIDENT Tudjman of Croatia appeared to be confounding the opinion polls yesterday when the first results from Sunday's presidential election suggested that he would score a convincing victory.

Opinion polls had suggested that a second round of voting would be needed to decide the outcome, but preliminary results gave Dr Tudjman 57 per cent of the vote, with 41 per cent for his party. It was not clear yesterday whether his Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) would retain its parliamentary majority because of the complex electoral system, but it seemed likely.

Dr Tudjman, a former communist general turned nationalist, first came to power in 1990. "We are very satisfied," Marija Mikuljan, a senior party official, said. While there was disappointment at the headquarters of the Social Liberals, the main opposition party, which looked like getting less than 20 per cent of the vote, all sides were relieved that the threat from the extreme nationalists had been thwarted.

Last week, thousands of supporters giving the Nazi salute, greeted Dobroslov Paraga, the nationalist leader, but his party looked as though it would get less than 7 per cent of the vote.

Zarko Puhovski, a political scientist at Zagreb university, said he believed that people had voted for Dr Tudjman because he represented "a strong hand". Tudjman played the gentleman president and father figure.

The success of Tudjman's party was put down to the fact that the mainstream opposition parties failed to agree on an electoral pact.

There were conflicting figures about how many people had voted abroad and there was confusion about how to resolve the problem of 13 seats reserved for Serbs. The only Serb party taking part failed to gain enough votes to get into parliament. No Serb had been elected from other parties.

Yalta accord ends tug of war over Black Sea fleet

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA and Ukraine, the heirs to Soviet military power, yesterday appeared to have agreed on a formula for the control and eventual peaceful division of the disputed Black Sea fleet.

During talks at a dacha near the Crimean resort of Yalta, President Kravchuk and President Yeltsin committed the former Soviet fleet to joint command for an interim period of three years, after which a permanent solution to the fleet's division would be found.

The deal appears to have settled the most serious bone of contention between the two Slav powers, which, for seven months, cast a shadow over their relations, and created considerable concern among Western governments. Apart from agreeing to share the 370-ship fleet, the two sides also pledged to replace the fleet's command with a new team jointly selected by the two governments. The fleet's current commander, Admiral Igor Kasatonov, renowned for his fiercely pro-Soviet attitude, inspired the intense distrust of the Ukrainian government. His likely removal will be greeted with relief and not a little satisfaction by Kiev.

Details of the agreement will be published at a later date, but its outlines were made clear at a press conference given by the two presidents. Mr Yeltsin, according to the Interfax news agency, described the deal as "weighty, politically well thought out", while President Kravchuk, who like Mr Yeltsin, had significant nationalist forces breathing down his neck, declared that the agreement would calm both Russians and Ukrainians. "It will considerably ease the situation in the two states," he said.

Mr Kravchuk ruled out granting in perpetuity land facilities for the Russian navy, but he appeared willing to reach an agreement for the Russians to rent port space in the Crimea while the Kremlin upgraded its own naval facilities along its own Black Sea coast.

According to a Reuters report, the two presidents also agreed to co-ordinate grain, sugar and oil prices, as well as

to finalise principles for dividing foreign property that had been held by the Soviet Union. The deal finally clears the way for Ukraine to acquire a string of embassies and trade missions throughout the world as well as strengthening Ukrainian confidence that Russia is recognising Kiev as the capital of a fully-fledged, independent state.

Yesterday's meeting was hastily arranged after fears of a mutiny among either pro-Russian or pro-Ukrainian officers in the wake of an incident last month when an escort ship hoisted the Ukrainian ensign and, pursued by ships loyal to the pro-Russian command, made for the port of Odessa.

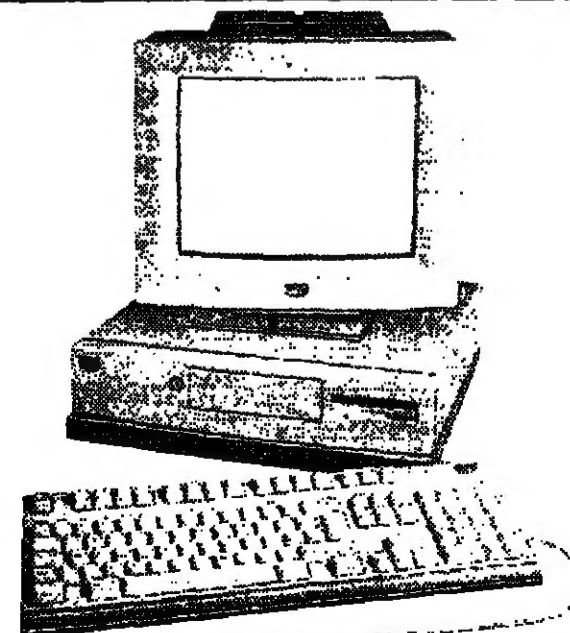
The formula seems to be an impressive achievement, although a similar accommodation between the two presidents prepared in the Russian seaside town of Dagomys in June failed to



calm tensions between the two rival commands in Sevastopol, the fleet's headquarters.

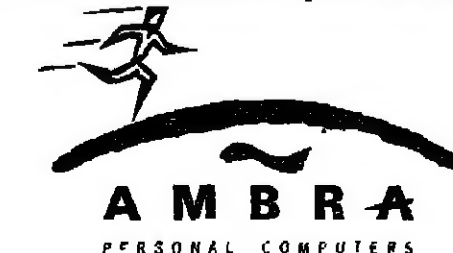
To both mass opinion and influential groups within Russia and Ukraine, the Black Sea fleet possesses a symbolic role out of all proportion to its fire power. The tug of war over the Black Sea fleet marked an important stage of post-Soviet sparring between the republics. It pitted Russian attempts to preserve its post-imperial pride — and military power — against Ukraine's desire not to become a pushover for the Kremlin. In Russia especially, where the Black Sea fleet, Sevastopol and the Crimean peninsula are seen by some as an integral part of the country's military heritage and prestige, a vociferous nationalist wing had pressured President Yeltsin not to give way to Ukraine.

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NEWSINBRIEF

Argentina tempts east Europeans

Buenos Aires: Argentina is hoping to attract more than a quarter of a million east Europeans and their investments next year. Three representatives were due yesterday from an ethnic German community in Russia to view prospective homes for about 10,000 of their compatriots.

Izvestia battle

Moscow: President Yeltsin's lawyer has appealed to Russia's highest court against an attempt by the conservative-dominated parliament to take over *Izvestia*, a leading liberal newspaper. (AFP)

In the swim

Sydney: Six members of the Maroney family from Sydney are hoping to become the first family to swim the English Channel this month. (Reuters)

Columbus sails

St Petersburg: A ship carrying a 32ft bronze statue of Christopher Columbus set sail for Florida, where it will be erected off the coast of Miami. (AP)

After 20 years, a second rich gift for Italy

Treasure of shipwrecked ancient bronzes rises again from deep

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

A police diver on holiday along the Apulian coast thought he had found the body of a Mafia victim when he saw a foot protruding from the seabed the other day.

Closer inspection by a carabinieri major, Luigi Robusto, revealed that the *cadeva* was made of bronze, forming part of at least three statues dating to the fourth century BC that divers later located some 50ft below the surface near the port of Brindisi, in the toe of the Italian boot.

Archaeologists believe the bronzes were part of a cargo from a Roman vessel shipwrecked on its way back to Brindisi during a voyage from Athens.

The discovery is being hailed as potentially the most important in southern Italy since the bearded "Bronzes of Riace" were found off the coast of Calabria in 1972. "When I saw a foot sticking out of the sand 300 yards from the shore, I told myself 'Here is a *cadeva* to investigate,'" Major Robusto, 37, said. "The bronze foot was intact apart from a scratch on heel and it was lifelike. I would say size ten. The pieces we collected were of different dimensions. This means, I suppose, the ship was carrying many statues."

A government expert in



The head of a bronze found at Riace in 1972

charge of the underwater site, Claudio Moccigiani, said authorities are using metal detectors to mark out the boundaries of the treasure trove and close it to marauding souvenir hunters.

"There are three or four statues, perhaps more," Signor Moccigiani told *Il Messaggero* newspaper. "Some of them are Greek, and this makes us think a ship was transporting them from Greece to Rome in the fourth century BC. But there are also some more recent pieces that perhaps the wrecked ship was carrying, a few centuries later, maybe ancient Greek statues

for the villas of the Romans." A bearded half-head among the relics decidedly recalls the bronzes of Riace, the expert said. The authorities are in no rush to recover the other statues before the area is properly explored and photographed. "They have waited 2,000 years. It would be a mistake to hurry now."

Beach patrol: Police on motor launches swooped on beaches at the resort of Sorrento and the jet-set islands of Capri and Ischia last weekend and rounded up nearly 100 mafiosi working on their sunbats, police sources said.

The well-known members of the Camorra, the Neapolitan version of the Mafia, were hustled away in an operation named "Summer Shield". Authorities said some of the suspects appeared to be continuing to run cigarette smuggling and other rackets from beneath beach umbrellas.

"We are determined to guarantee tourists a serene stay," said Angelo Balsano, the officer who co-ordinated the raids. "These gentlemen would do better to stay at home." Thirty-five people considered undesirable because of criminal records were escorted out of Sorrento and banned by police from returning for several months.

Employers complain of widespread intimidation

ANC's strike hits transport but miners ignore call

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN
IN JOHANNESBURG

THE first day of the national general strike ordered by the African National Congress and its two left-wing allies, the South African Communist Party and the Confederation of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), was proclaimed a "phenomenal success" by its organisers yesterday. The South African Chamber of Business, however, said that no more than two million workers struck and complained of widespread intimidation of people wishing to work.

Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC secretary-general, said four million people around the country had stayed away from work, "one of the largest strikes our country has witnessed". There is some argument over the exact numbers who stayed away. Anglo-American, the biggest mining conglomerate in the country, said that its entire workforce reported for work in its gold mines yesterday, and that in its collieries only a quarter stayed away.



Ramaphosa: claims a phenomenal success

Mineworkers are in a slightly different situation from the rest of the workforce, in that in many cases they live in mine hostels and often live under the protection of armed security guards. There is therefore a strong incentive to turn up for work and a strong disincentive for those who might try to intimidate them into not turning up.

Anglo-American was one of 30 companies telephoned by Nelson Mandela, president of the ANC, last week in an effort to prevent them from dis-

missing the workers who went on strike, but the company told him they would do everything they could to ensure their workers turned up for work.

Many thousands of other workers did not go to work because they were intimidated. Whether the intimidation was real or imagined they were not going to take the risk, and the townships around Johannesburg were a Sunday air most of the day. At the usual rush-hour time very few people were even on the streets, preferring a long lie-in on this extended weekend.

Those who did go to work found that the usual forms of transport were thin on the ground, but buses and minibuses taxis all provided some service. Many people arrived at work late and blamed the lack of transport. The majority of shops in the city were open but customers were few.

There was an almost complete absence of street hawkers (except for some women from Swaziland selling baskets who were not going to be put off by anyone) and for the first time for some years there were more white than black faces on the streets.

At least ten people died in violence that could be directly related to the strike. But this, it has to be admitted, is not unusually high for these disturbed times. Three people died in Dobsonville in Soweto when, according to a police statement, some youngsters began stoning vehicles. A police patrol was fired on and they returned fire.

The ANC says that a group of ANC marshals was threatened and then fired on by a group of white men, and they then returned fire themselves. A policeman was badly hurt. Mr Ramaphosa pointed out that the ANC could not be blamed for most of the deaths, as their members were in many cases the victims. He admitted that there had been some physical intimidation of people who wanted to work but added: "We condemn these unprovoked acts, as we do all instances of violence. The structures of the alliance will take what disciplinary measures are appropriate where our members are found to have been involved in these actions."

He insisted that "in spite of



To the barricades: Cape Town youths add debris to burning tyres as township dwellers try to stop residents going to work at the start of the general strike

the De Klerk regime's provocative actions to intimidate people by the deployment of security forces in the African townships, incidents of violence have been markedly low".

In Daveyton on the East Rand, the United Nations monitor proved his worth by calming a confrontation which had arisen. But his colleague in the Ciskei, one of the independent homelands at present under the control of Brigadier Oupa Gqozo, a military man who is fiercely hostile to the ANC, was less successful. He was not even allowed into one of the Ciskei townships.

Brigadier Gqozo has announced that he intends to open fire on an ANC march due to take place in Bisho, the capital, today. The ANC alliance intends to test that resolve

by sending Chris Hani, the Communist party secretary-general, and Sam Shilowa, deputy leader of Cosatu, to lead the march.

Natal, where the Zulus are the predominant tribe, was clearly the worst affected by violence. There there was an overnight death toll of 21 as violence broke out between supporters of the strike and their implacable enemies, the mainly Zulu supporters of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

It is still not established what happened at an incident in Esikawini, near Empangeni, where 11 bodies were found yesterday morning. All of them had been shot. Two buses carrying people to work were set on fire at Kwa-Nobonambi, and the driver of one of them was shot and killed. A local Inkatha leader was also shot and killed.

Burning barricades had been set up on all roads leading out of Natal townships on Sunday night, and police reported that there were another seven deaths related to unrest in the province. In Cape Town a burning barricade was laid across the main railway line from Kayelisha, but the strike was reported to be only 40 to 50 per cent effective in the Western Cape; many more people stayed away in the Eastern Cape.

Joan Seymour, a Briton who is the UN monitor in the Western Cape, also became involved in events when she and Dr Alan Bosak, the local ANC leader, hurried to Grabouw to talk to police after a man was shot dead and three others hurt as police opened fire on stone throwers.

Journalists shot, page 1

Orphaned Somali children await their turn to die

Relief workers increasingly believe that foreign military intervention in Somalia may be necessary to combat the famine that threatens millions, Sam Kiley writes

Standing alone in an abandoned feeding centre, Nor Isaq wobbled unsteadily on legs with the strength and thickness of twigs. All the members of his family, who once farmed the fertile region near Baidoa, died this month of starvation.

"I am alone, alone," whimpered the six-year-old as he shielded his head from the sun with an old sack. Across the compound used by the International Committee of the Red Cross as a feeding centre and kitchen until their food stocks were looted last Friday, an old woman wrapped a makeshift shroud around one of her dead sisters. The other, already prepared for burial, lay stiff as a mummy in the dust. "They both died this morning. Now I am the last of our family. I don't have the strength to bury them," the woman said.

On top of recently dug graves, another victim of the Somali civil war and drought, a man in his early twenties, lay like a discarded marionette. He refused to be moved as there would be no one left in his family to dispose of his body. Mohammed Farrah, a local relief volunteer, said: "I expect he wants to roll over into that ready-made grave."

In Baidoa, once the capital of a rich, rain-fed region 156 miles west of the capital, Mogadishu, the streets are clogged with the bones of domestic animals long ago slaughtered for food. Most gardens have been turned into graveyards for the victims of the famine and of killings by troops loyal to Somalia's former president, Mohamed Siad Barre, who fled the country earlier this year. Dead children who had been abandoned by their starving parents lie in little heaps of rags where they had lain down to shelter from the sun on street corners.

The Red Cross, which has spent \$100 million on airlifting food to remote parts of Somalia in the last year, says that 1.5 million Somalis will die in the next few months unless a vast relief operation is carried out. Other agencies say that this might be an underestimate. If their worst predictions come true, more people will have died in Somalia by Christmas than died in the Ethiopian famine

of the mid-1980s. At least 200 of the 60,000 people thought to be living in Baidoa die every day. "The figures outside of the city are probably much higher. We try to feed in other towns in the region but the situation is absolutely terrible," said Christophe Sereau, a Red Cross administrator.

As Somalia has collapsed into anarchy, the United Nations and other agencies have been unable to distribute food around the country, other than by air. And when it does arrive, having doubled in cost because of the air freight, food aid is often looted.

Last Friday the Red Cross lost thousands of tonnes of food to heavily armed looters — having been assured by the Somali Liberation Army, a coalition of forces led by General Mohammed Farrah Aidid, that the food would be protected. A local official of the liberation army said: "We can guarantee the safety of all foreigners and food convoys in this country." But he could not explain why the looted food was being loaded on lorries heading for the markets of Mogadishu — under the guard of his own troops.

The UN Security Council recently voted to launch a huge relief operation in Somalia and endorsed proposals to send foreign troops to protect aid workers and food convoys in the country. But General Aidid has refused to allow the foreign troops into the country.

But since America said that it was prepared to "contribute generously" to a planned UN relief operation which would include the use of armed UN soldiers, the prospect of military intervention on humanitarian grounds without the agreement of General Aidid has grown. Most civilian Somalis welcome the idea but foreign troops could meet with stiff opposition from General Aidid's forces.

A member of the UN mission to Somalia said: "There would certainly be casualties among a foreign force, but the population is now exhausted by the war and desperately needs security and food. There is only one way to bring the food in, and that is to bring it in under armed guard."

Maputo rivals to meet

Harare: The strongest prospect for an end to 15 years of civil war in Mozambique will be within the grasp of the two protagonists, President Chissano, the head of the ruling Frelimo party, and Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the rebel Renamo movement, when they hold their first face-to-face meeting today (Jan Raath writes).

Observers hope that the meeting in Rome will provide an injection of resolve into two years of slow talks, marked by repeated breakdowns and little advance on issues of substance. The meeting follows the involvement of officials from the Vatican and Italy, Britain, the United States, France and President Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

Western diplomats here cautioned against optimism and said that Mr Dhlakama may not turn up in Rome, another in a long list of missed appointments.

Bodies found

Kathmandu: Army helicopters began retrieving the bodies of 113 people killed when a Thai Airways plane, on its way from Bangkok to Kathmandu, crashed in the Himalayas. Soldiers also found the cockpit voice recorder. (AP)

Hindus killed

Lucknow: Sikh separatists shot dead 29 Hindu villagers they kidnapped in the jungles of central India, police said. In Punjab, security forces killed six Sikh militants. Nearly 2,500 have died in separatist violence this year. (AP)

Nazis meet

Montreal: About 75 neo-Nazis and Ku Klux Klan members, some in military fatigues, masks and swastika armbands, held a rally on a rented farm near Montreal. A swastika flag was burnt to cries of "Heil Hitler" and "White Power". (Reuters)

31 executed

Nicosia: An exiled Iranian opposition group, Mujahidin Khalq, claims that 31 people were secretly executed last week in the western Iranian city of Hamadan, including 15 hanged on the pretext of drug trafficking. (Reuters)

Nosing ahead

Tokyo: Sony has developed a smelling machine 100 times more effective than a human nose. The sensor, which can identify perfumes and food flavourings, uses six sensors wrapped in a film made of fatty acids and connected to a computer. (Reuters)

Bonn's Ostpolitik stands in the dock beside Honecker

BERLINERS strolling past Moabit jail yesterday could hardly resist pointing at the tiny, barred windows behind its high wall and reminding each other that the latest resident there is Erich Honecker, East Germany's former leader.

They still seem unable to grasp that the man who helped build the notorious Berlin Wall, now gone, is inside. It is a disbelief that also extends to the statesmen of Bonn, who are experiencing a twinge of embarrassment at seeing their demands for his return realised. The trial of Herr Honecker, due to begin in the autumn, places the former West Germany in the awkward position of having its dealings with East Berlin placed under renewed scrutiny and its Ostpolitik — open and frequent dealings with the East over 20 years — exposed to a critical glare from which it was hitherto exempt.

For the elderly communist, who is now routinely denounced in the German media as "that criminal", was only five years ago on a given the red carpet treatment in Bonn, exchanging banter and trade treaties with Helmut Kohl, the chancellor. In those days, Herr Honecker was wont to remark that capitalism and communism were "like fire and water — they cannot mix", to which the chancellor would reply that that was all right by him as long as no one got burnt or drowned. While both leaders expressed the expected enmity of the other's system, the barbs were of the mildest variety.

Only since the collapse of the East have the Berlin Wall and the deaths on the internal German border returned to the centre of public interest. When Herr Kohl, on holiday in Austria, heard of Herr Honecker's return, his response was muted. "It is about

Fear of revelations tempers Bonn's attitude to the Honecker trial, Anne McElvoy writes from Berlin

time. Now the trial can begin," he said. His tone is unflinching and reserved. It is fair to assume that he is not entirely free of nervousness about the turn of events and the effect on his troubled administration.

There are two options open to the government. It can pursue a vigorous trial against the former communist leader, in which case it risks him taking the stand to reveal the precise and intimate nature of his dealings with former chancellors Willy Brandt and Helmut Schmidt, and Herr Kohl, and the broad degree of tolerance in Bonn towards the second German state, or it can indicate to him that he can expect leniency if he maintains discretion. While Dieter Vogel, the government spokesman, has said that the trial will be "a normal affair governed by the principles of the state of law", it would be naive to think that a case with so many political overtones will be conducted without the influence of senior politicians.

According to Günter Schabowski, the former East Berlin party chief and member of the politburo for five years, the second outcome is more likely. "All Honecker has to do is describe the conversations he had on sofas over the years with leading West German politicians and the aura of moral authority will quickly fade," he said. "Quite often I was sitting on the damn sofa with them, and I can tell you that the atmosphere was quite convivial. It was 'Erich this

and Erich that', followed by hearty German toasts. The brutal truth is that no one in Bonn ever expected to be trying Honecker as a criminal and did not dream that his behaviour towards the East would come under close scrutiny."

There are strong indications that Herr Kohl was relieved when in March 1991 Herr Honecker fled to Moscow. The government was pleased to be rid of him and his exile seemed a fitting end for a man whose ideology was a product of the Soviet Union. The failed Soviet coup attempt and the advent of Boris Yeltsin changed that. No longer could Bonn claim that the Soviet Communist party was impeding extradition. Once the Honeckers threw themselves on the mercy of the Chilean ambassador, there was nothing it could do to save face at home apart from demanding his return.

The initial calculation that a trial would satisfy eastern German lust for vengeance and distract them from their disappointment at the economic and social difficulties they are facing, is no longer valid. There is a marked lack of interest in Herr Honecker's fate in the east. Faced with an opinion pollster, people tend to answer that he should be tried.

The sheer complexity of the case in terms of proving a cause or link between Herr Honecker's official statements about the policing of the border and the deaths which occurred there, together with the inadequacy of democratic law for dealing with the crimes of a dictatorship, may well result in his being found not guilty. The German government of the past two decades are likely to find themselves in the dock alongside him.

German economy, page 15



Rühe: a big victory for reason and morality

Germany scraps T55 tanks

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

TWO senior German ministers, armed with a blow torch, yesterday partly destroyed a Russian-built tank. Volker Rühe, the defence minister, and Klaus Kinkel, the foreign minister, attacked the T55 at a ceremony marking the beginning of the huge European disarmament programme set out in the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) agreement.

Under the CFE accord, signed in Paris in November 1990, 22 Nato and former Warsaw Pact countries agreed to destroy 40,000 conventional weapons systems by the end of 1995. Germany, which alone is responsible for breaking up 11,000 of the weapons, has become the first country to start the job. "Today is a symbol of the victory of reason and morality over confrontation and the arms race," Herr Kinkel said, as he began cutting into the first T55 in a field full of tanks lined up near the old East German army base at Rockensussa.

Herr Rühe said that demolishing the 11,000 weapons would cost 190 million marks (\$66 million). Destroying a battle tank cost 12,000 marks.

Russians hold closing-down sale

FROM PATRICIA KOZA IN WARSAW

ON A typical market day in the town of Legnica in south-western Poland, you can buy more than chickens and cabbages.

Kalashnikov assault rifles, grenades and other military equipment left behind by the departing Russian army can also be bought. The 20,000 post-Soviet troops in Poland are pulling out on schedule and what they cannot take with them, they are selling.

Soldiers and officers leaving their barracks at the former Soviet headquarters in Legnica have ripped out the plumbing, wiring, and even the window and door frames to take back home or sell. Big concrete chunks have been ripped out of the tarmac at the base airport for sale to local builders.

A military exercise several months ago collapsed when most of the tanks ground to a halt after only a few hundred yards because the fuel had been siphoned out and sold.

Polish authorities, relieved to see the Russians going, are mostly looking the other way. But when 49 repaired passenger cars were discovered on the base, most with their serial numbers shaved off, the Poles temporarily grounded all Russian military flights. Authorities say thousands of cars have disappeared in the area, many under the canvases of trucks heading east.

In an agreement signed in May between President Walesa of Poland and President Yeltsin of Russia, the last combat troops will be out of Poland by November 15. About 6,000 communications troops will stay through next year to monitor the withdrawal of their colleagues from eastern Germany through Poland. A supplementary agreement allows the Russians to sell certain assets from their bases, such as fuel, fuel containers, piping and non-ferrous metals. The proceeds

from all sales are supposed to go into a Russian bank account in Legnica, with no cash changing hands.

"So far there have been no proposals for auctions, but we know the sales are going on on a grand scale," said Antoni Golab, an official who handles contacts with post-Soviet troops.

About 50,000 troops once manned 35 garrisons in Poland, embracing 8,000 buildings over an area of 160,500 acres. Some 30,000 soldiers have left.

So far, 32 facilities vacated by the Soviets have been classified as suitable for the

Polish army to take over. The Polish government estimates it will cost at least \$50 million (\$100 million) to repair the facilities, plus \$5 million in annual maintenance. The environmental damage has yet to be calculated.

Soldiers mix with citizens in market places around the area, selling legal as well as illegal items. Russian-made Kalashnikov assault rifles go for about \$150 to \$200. Grenades can be picked up for 20 cents if bought in bulk. One local farmer bought 525 of them.

The Russians have even "sold" apartments to 300

Poles for a \$3.7 million — flats that became the property of the Polish government when the troops left. The Polish buyers, now facing eviction, have been staging protests in front of the town hall.

The post-Soviet officers and soldiers are going back to a country in turmoil, without facilities to house them or jobs to keep them busy and paid. The former commander of the troops in Poland, General Viktor Dubinin, sympathises with their sudden interest in trade. "It is the only way for them to make some money before returning home where nobody is waiting for them."

Road to £28m Riviera art theft is pitted with indiscretions

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

SCREENWRITERS looking for a summer scenario could do worse than turn to events last weekend at La Colombe, an opulent seafaring estate at Cap d'Ail on the Côte d'Azur.

In the small hours of Friday, according to the outward facts, thieves climbed the cliff from the Mediterranean, broke into the upstairs floor of one of five white villas making up La Colombe and made off with four works by Degas, Matisse and Modigliani worth £28 million at the lowest estimate. These were *L'interieur d'une chambre*, a 1905 work from Matisse's Fauvist period, Modigliani's *Portrait of Femme au Col Blanc*, and two portraits by Degas.

In perpetrating what the Riviera press is inevitably calling the robbery of the century, the thieves did not touch other paintings, but they did lay waste to the bedroom of Anthony Tan-

nouri, the Lebanese-French owner of the house and the paintings, destroying his clothes, dumping precious objects on to his bed and stealing £6,000 in change.

This act was just one of several that are puzzling the detectives from Nice. Thieves expert in fine art rarely bother to lay waste like common burglars. "The vandalism was clearly just a set-up," a detective told *France-Soir*. Then there was the question of the eight caretakers who failed to hear anything suspicious. The burglar alarm had been disconnected for months during renovations to the building.

Most intriguing of the police is the enigmatic character of M Tannouri, a multi-millionaire financier who threw some of the most extravagant parties of the mid-1980s before spending three years in jail for tax fraud. He only recently extracted himself from a case of mistaken

identity in which the United States sought his extradition on charges of international drug trafficking. A charming 46-year-old, who has never revealed the source of his fortune, M Tannouri was at his Swiss residence when the crime took place. "After what I've been through these past few years, this robbery seems more like a caress," he said. He discounted any suggestion of an inside job. The pictures were not insured.

The theft appears to leave M Tannouri in embarrassing straits because he was negotiating the sale of these four paintings to pay a tax debt of £28 million, a fact confirmed by the budget ministry. "The documents concerning these canvases and the correspondence on the transaction have already passed through many hands," M Tannouri said. "Lawyers, judges, experts, civil servants. Perhaps someone was indiscreet."

هنا نحن الاصل

Israel fears future of Fatah gunmen in policemen's clothing

IF ASPIRING policemen, hoping one day to keep order in a future Palestinian homeland, need any advice about their job prospects they would do well to visit the dilapidated building that was Jerusalem's central prison in the days of the British mandate.

Aside from the gallows, cells and exercise ground, which are preserved as they were in 1948 when the British withdrew from Palestine, a visitor can hardly miss the small cluster of white headstones faded after long exposure to Jerusalem's harsh elements.

The tombstones, disused by the former Arab and Jewish inmates, bear the names of young British constables and sergeants killed in action in the service of the Palestine Police and are a grim reminder of the hazards of keeping the peace in the Holy Land.

The message is particularly poignant this month as Palestinian and Israelis prepare for the first time in their decades-long conflict to discuss in detail the possibility of a future Palestinian entity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip living in peaceful coexistence with the Jewish state. As many as 39 separate Palestinian working groups are drawing up the blueprint of a government for self-rule in the occupied territories when Israel transfers its military administration to the 1.8 million Palestinian inhabitants.

In some cases, experts believe that the transfer of power could be accomplished at the stroke of a pen, for instance in the field of education, where all teachers and most administrators are already Palestinians. The distinctions, however, will be-



bloody power struggle with the Islamic resistance movement Hamas. One Hebron businessman said: "You cannot suddenly turn the *shabab* [lads] into policemen overnight. It would end in chaos and dash any hopes we have of ever running our own affairs."

For Israel's right-wing opposition, and in particular the Jewish settlers in the occupied territories, the prospect of having a large Palestinian police in charge of law and order would be little less than a declaration of war. An editorial in yesterday's right-wing *Jerusalem Post* said: "To talk about an armed police force [larger than Israel's] before the character, authority and parameters of the autonomy have been broadened is to insult the intelligence of the Israeli negotiators. And to suggest that the troops will be made up

of Fatah activists, the very group that has established a reign of terror in the administered territories by murdering hundreds of alleged informers is to ensure that the story will not be taken seriously."

The newspaper's reservations appear to be supported by an incident in the Gaza Strip over the weekend when one Israeli soldier was killed and two injured in a shoot-out with a Palestinian gunman at the Khan Yunis refugee camp. The Fatah member, Osama Najjar, who was also killed in the clash, had escaped police custody earlier this year, and was wanted for several murders of suspected Palestinian collaborators, and the attempted murder and wounding of an Israeli citizen in 1991. The commander of the Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip, Brigadier General Yom-Tov

Samia, revealed that before the intifada Najjar had been a policeman with the military administration in Gaza, where he had learnt his expert handling of firearms and good marksmanship.

With the prospects of other Palestinian activists with similar backgrounds making up the recruits for a future police force, it may yet be some time before the uniform of the Palestine Police is once again on the streets of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

● **Kollek move:** No further Arab homes that have been built without permits in Jerusalem will be demolished, Teddy Kollek, the mayor, said yesterday. Mr Kollek wants Israel's new left-wing government to take a specific policy decision about Arab building in east Jerusalem. His spokeswoman said. (AFP)

'Dirty' campaign backfires

White House retreats over Clinton attack

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush's dismal re-election campaign suffered a further humiliation yesterday when a White House spokeswoman was forced to apologise for a vicious personal assault on Bill Clinton that recalled allegations of adultery and drug-taking levelled against the Arkansas governor during the Democratic primaries.

But at the same time Mr Bush noticeably sharpened his rhetorical attacks on the politics of man he contemptuously referred to only as "a certain Southern governor", doing his level best to paint Mr Clinton as a traditional tax-and-spend liberal Democrat too inexperienced to be trusted with America's future.

Mr Bush had previously forsworn attacks on Mr Clinton's platform until after this month's Republican convention. The abrupt change of tactics was seen as an attempt by an increasingly desperate president to reverse Mr Clinton's surge to a lead of more than 20 points in the polls before it was too late.

The personal assault on Mr Clinton was contained in a news release distributed late on Sunday to reporters travelling with the president in Illinois. It noted that the Clinton camp "had to spend thousands of dollars on private investigators to fend off 'bimbo eruptions'" and that Mr Clinton had "admitted there was a deliberate pattern of omission in his answers on marijuana use". It also referred to Mr Clinton's nickname of "Slick Willie" and to his weight problems.

Obviously a list of occasions on which Democrats had launched unprovoked attacks on Mr Bush, the release was written by Mary Matalin, the campaign's political director, and addressed to "Democrat snivelling hypocrites" who had complained last week when she told *The New York*

Times: "We've never said to the press that Clinton's a philandering, pot-smoking draft-dodger." She bluntly warned them to "shut up".

The release provoked furious protests from the Clinton camp and other top Democrats. Dee Dee Myers, Mr Clinton's spokeswoman, called it "the sleaziest hit of the campaign". Ron Brown, the Democratic party chairman, accused the Bush campaign of "trafficking in tabloid trash about the Clinton family". George Stephanopoulos, Mr Clinton's communications director, called it "sleaze-mongering" and accused Mr Bush of breaking his pledge that candidates' personal lives would be off limits during the campaign.

Initially the Bush campaign sought to defend the release as legitimate retaliation. A spokeswoman, Torie Clarke, commented: "We have been laying back entirely too much this year." The Democrats "have done a very good job convincing you that we're the mean and nasty ones... We're going to do everything possible to keep them straight and honest".

But when it became clear the release had overstepped the mark and was likely to backfire, the White House swiftly disavowed it and said Ms Matalin had taken full responsibility and apologised. "We will continue to run a good, clean, hard-hitting campaign. The president is determined to keep this campaign out of the sleaze business," said a spokeswoman with Mr Bush in Florida.

Mr Clinton has to an extent immunised himself against personal attacks by repeatedly warning the public to expect the sort of negative campaigning with which the Republicans destroyed Michael Dukakis in 1988 and for which they were later condemned. Learning from Mr Dukakis's failures, he has also made a point of responding instantly to each and every Republican attack.

The Bush campaign was airing its first television commercials last night. Aides said they would be positive, dwelling on Mr Bush's plans and accomplishments, but the campaign is also preparing much harsher ones attacking Mr Clinton.



Rain man: President Bush, soaked in a suddedownpour, makes light of the damp at a Republican picnic in Elk Grove Village, Illinois

BCCI backlash can hurt Bush

Clark Clifford may be a Democrat, yet his trial can hurt Bush, Martin Fletcher writes from Washington

There are events that overtly sway elections, others whose influence is subtler but no less potent.

In this year's presidential race, that latter category could well include the criminal charges filed against Clark Clifford, the Washington lawyer who has been the adviser of every Democratic president since Harry Truman. But President Bush, not Bill Clinton, stands to suffer.

Mr Clifford has been charged with accepting bribes, lying to regulators and falsifying records to help the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) illegally buy American banks. He has denied the charges and his trial opens on October 26, one week before election day.

In a campaign already focused on the issue of trust, the American public will see a man of more than passing similarity to Mr Bush assailed for corruption. The President and Mr Clifford may belong to different parties, but to ordinary Americans they are both members of a wealthy, patrician establishment with which the nation is already disaffected. Both are political insiders who have nurtured reputations for probity and integrity.

Normally, there would be no reason why the Clifford trial would harm Mr Bush, except that in this instance Mr Clifford, portraying himself as the untainted outsider, will have spent weeks denouncing Mr Bush as being, behind that facade of rectitude, the champion of a corrupt, self-serving and failed status quo, of which Mr Clifford has been an integral part.

It was the first sought to exploit the trust issue by conjuring images of him receiving

midnight phone calls telling him of world crises, such as Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The unspoken question was whether America could trust Mr Clinton, with all his alleged character flaws, in that position.

Mr Clinton's obvious response was to ask whether Americans could trust a president who had reneged on his electoral pledge of "no new taxes".

Trying to destroy what is one of Mr Bush's greatest assets, his air of selfless noblesse oblige, Mr Clinton has accused him of neglect, and he has barely started on the explosive issue of the Bush administration's aid to President Saddam Hussein before the Gulf war.

Mr Bush's response to that charge is strikingly similar to Mr Clifford's response to the BCCI charges - he just did not know what was happening. Who will the American electorate believe? Normally, the incumbent, but were they to see a man of Mr Clifford's apparently spotless record exposed as a hypocrite, they might well favour Mr Clinton.

Hard-up foreigners strike it rich with Tokyo's discarded luxuries

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

THE shabby van clung to the late-night shadows as it cruised slowly up and down the narrow streets of Tokyo's Shinjuku ward. Inside, four foreigners scanned the pavements, waiting to pounce.

Suddenly the van pulled up just beyond an apartment block. Two passengers climbed out, cast furtive glances up and down the street and ran across to grab a television sitting on the pavement. They moved on and repeated the performance around the corner, this time making off with a microwave oven, a washing machine and a bicycle.

Nocturnal adventures such as these go on all the time in Tokyo, the booty gathered being goods abandoned by their Japanese owners. For many newly arrived foreigners, appalled at the cost of kitting out even a shoebox of a home, picking up discarded but functional electrical appli-

ances and furniture from the street offers a happy alternative to a visit to a Tokyo department store, where some might be tempted to arrange a mortgage before buying a new bookshelf.

According to two recent arrivals, one evening's trawling in a couple of Tokyo's more affluent wards yielded a bumper haul. They came home with two bicycles, a fridge, an oven, a washing machine, video recorder, coffee table and two chairs, all in fine working order. "There's no point in standing on ceremony. These things just get crunched up in the rubbish vans if left here," said one veteran collector.

Much like magpies, Japanese consumers delight in buying the latest shiny new models from their country's electronic manufacturing giants. But thanks to cunning product development and marketing strategies, these

paper *Arab Times* yesterday over a story of how the Iraqi boxer, Feras Hashim, sold after a technical knockout an American Samoan at the Barcelona Olympics.

At home, Saddam is putting the performance of his Olympic team to shame in a confrontation with the West. He won the first confrontation against the United Nations over weapons inspections on points, said Amara Barani, of Haila University, who has followed events in Iraq for more than 15 years. "The feeling in Iraq now is that Saddam Hussein is winning, and as long as they feel that, the Iraqis will never r against him."

Saddam's enemies say the Iraqi leader has relied more than sheer terror emerge stronger now than any time since the Gulf war. Despite sanctions, he has managed to keep dissatisfaction from boiling over by providing most of his people with their basic food needs while pampering a loyal minority. Iraq's deep sectarian divisions have also worked to his advantage, with the Sunni Muslim hardline fearing that in-fighting after Saddam's overthrow would leave them prey to the more numerous Shi'as of the south.

Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, credited with saving thousands of Hungarian Jews from Hitler's gas chambers, will be honoured officially in Budapest for the first time today. Soviet authorities said Wallenberg died in Moscow's Lubyanka prison in 1947. But the Swedish Raoul Wallenberg group believes he is still alive. He will be commemorated by an exhibition at Budapest castle and a symposium of lawyers and historians to debate issues of discrimination and minorities. Following the break-up of the former Soviet Union, Russian authorities have allowed the Wallenberg group access to secret documents in their attempts to discover his fate.

Hotel queen Leona Helmsley, 72, who claimed that life behind bars could kill her, has been pumping iron, a fellow inmate says. "She's in very good shape," Marie Jordan said in *People* magazine. Helmsley, 72, was sentenced to four years for tax evasion.

Imelda Marcos, the former first lady of the Philippines, said yesterday that she planned to bring home the remains of her husband, former dictator Ferdinand Marcos by September 1 so that he could be buried by his birthday on September 11.

Japan and China have agreed on a historic visit to China by Emperor Akihito in October. *Jiji Press* said in the latest of a series of reports on negotiations over the trip.

Rudolph Sprüngli, 72, chairman of Swiss chocolate maker Lindt & Sprüngli, said he had married Alexandra Gantenbein, of the "I Am theosophical movement, after ensuring that she did not pose a threat to the company.

INQUIRY INTO POLICE RESPONSIBILITIES & REWARDS

The Inquiry into Police Responsibilities and Rewards is carrying out a major review of police pay and rank structures. The Inquiry's main aim is to produce recommendations which will allow more effective use to be made of the resources allocated to the Police Service.

The Inquiry wishes to receive written evidence from any interested parties and members of the public who have views or information which they think will assist the Inquiry and which relate to its Terms of Reference. Copies of the Terms of Reference can be obtained from the address below.

Evidence is invited on all aspects of the Terms of Reference but would be particularly welcomed on the following topics:

- Police roles and responsibilities
- Rank structure
- Distribution of rewards
- Recognition of responsibilities and performance through the reward system
- Levels of remuneration
- Conditions of Service
- Affordability and value for money

Written evidence and an executive summary should be submitted to The Secretary of the Inquiry into Police Responsibilities and Rewards, Riverwalk House, 157-161 Millbank, London SW1P 4RT as soon as possible and no later than 2 November 1992.

Is Batman a racist bigot?

Is Superman a Jew? Ben Macintyre investigates America's latest worry

The virus of anti-Semitism is spreading, but in America the debate over the world's oldest hatred has recently come to rest on two, rather unexpected questions: Is Batman anti-Semitic? Is Superman Jewish?

A recent article in *The New York Times*, under the headline "Batman and the Jewish Question", asserted that the new film *Batman Returns* by British director Tim Burton (which has already broken box-office records) is riddled with anti-Semitic stereotypes, and contains "biblical allusions and historical references which betray a hidden conflict between gentle and Jew".

Since publication, the newspaper has been deluged with letters. Some dismissed the article, by two students at Columbia University, as the product of "lurid and over-heated imaginations"; others agreed, and added further evidence to show that the film had "gratuitous bigotry embedded in its script and characters". A second article, published in the New York magazine *The Village Voice* last week, re-addressed the question of how Jews are portrayed in popular culture and argued that *Batman*, the blue-eyed hero who leaps reality with a single bound, is in fact the "world's most famous muscle Jew".

Both arguments are worth examination, less because of any validity they may have than because the controversy they have generated reflects both the understandable self-consciousness of many Jewish Americans, and a growing tendency among intellectuals towards reckless over-analysis.

The case against *Batman Returns*, which is also showing in Britain, focuses on the villain of the piece, Penguin, a round, slavering beastie with flippers, played by Danny DeVito. Penguin, wrote Rebecca Roiphe and Daniel Cooper, "is a Jew, down to his hooked nose, pale face and lust for herring... he is one of the oldest clichés: the Jew who is bitter, bent over and out for revenge, the Jew who is unathletic and seemingly unthreatening but who, in fact, wants to murder every first-born child of the gentile community."

cowardly alter-ego, is an anti-Semitic stereotype, from his undeclared love for Lois Lane ("the shiksa of his dreams") to his job as a journalist ("the perfect example of the 'parasitical' occupations European Jews have been accused of holding since the birth of capitalism"). When Clark Kent transforms himself into Superman, Salomon argues, he becomes the embodiment of an ideal of Jewish masculinity envisaged by Max Nordau, the Jewish physician and literary critic who called on Jews at the turn of the century to become "deep-chested, sturdy, sharp-eyed men" or *Muskel-judentum*, muscle-Jews.

Jacob (later Jerome) Siegel and Joe Shuster, the two Jewish men, who came up with the idea for Superman in 1938 had probably never heard of Max Nordau, any more than the children trooping off to see *Batman Returns* are familiar with the operas of Richard Wagner. Children do not see their superheroes as racial symbols, but simply as heroes. Perhaps



De Vito: Give him a break, he's just a penguin

the most telling response to the fracas over *Batman's* alleged racism came from a young girl, whose father read her the article: "It made me very surprised," she wrote, "when they said the Penguin had to be Jewish because of his nose and fondness for herring. For Pete's Sake, he's a penguin, give him a break!"

There is a vague in intellectual circles to search for hidden cultural or political significance in subjects where it usually does not exist and is almost certainly unintended. *Batman* (a Jewish name, perhaps) is simply an engaging, if rather ridiculous gothic film. Superman is a realisation of childish fantasy: a cigar, as Freud pointed out, is sometimes just a cigar.

The over-analysis of fictional characters like *Batman* and *Superman* has spilled into American politics, and the politically correct are bearing down on figures of entertainment and transforming them into cultural symbols, in a way that is new and often bizarre. Popeye was recently accused of bias on the abortion issue when Olive Oyl decided to send a baby doll she had received in the post "back to its maker".

The most disturbing aspect of the dispute over *Batman*, however, is the amount of intellectual energy being wasted rooting for anti-Semitism in harmless children's culture, when it exists so glaringly elsewhere. As in Europe, the canker of anti-Semitism is growing again in America. "We must not squander the precious currency of concern," wrote two leaders of the Jewish Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith recently.

Anti-Semitic violence is on the rise, the Ku-Klux-Klan has become slicker and more media-friendly. David Duke runs for office with the support of thousands. There are anti-Semitic villains on the loose in Gotham City and elsewhere, but *Batman* is surely not one of them.

Britons take their holidays abroad to avoid their fellow countrymen, writes Janet Daley

Only the last resort

With the enthusiasm of convert, I doggedly persist in taking most of my holidays in Britain. Not having been born here, I have none of the native impulse to abscond. And it saddens me that Britain's holiday industry is collapsing. Finishing, as I did last week, the last District uncrewed and the Yorkshire Dales largely empty, was unexpected delight. But if a favourite rural village dies for lack of trade, then my enjoyment of unspoilt idyll will be short-lived.

The recession may be partly blame but the problem goes deeper. Even the most parochial of the population, who horizons a generation ago would have stopped at the end of their own street, now prefer to holiday almost anywhere that is foreign (even in a place as unlovely as Miami). Tragically many of the travellers have scarcely seen a green mosaic of their own countryside which is lush and benign if far more beautiful than the brown Tuscan hills. Nor will they know the houses and churches of village England: monuments to a genius for domestic architecture which makes French chateaux seem coldly brutal.

Having spent years in places where heat is a torment, I shudder at the demerited British

rush to places which promise sun and an unlimited supply of mosquitoes. Where I grew up in New York and Boston, the rich would escape in summer to Cape Cod and the shores of Long Island (much as the sensible Italians flee to the mountains, renting their Tuscan villas to the heat-crazy English) while the rest of us sweltered with only the occasional relief of an air-conditioned cinema where you would linger as long as possible before venturing out into the fetid August air. The British never seem to understand the blessing of a temperate climate in which, as George Bernard Shaw said, you can take a walk every day of the year.

The cosmopolitan go away in search of sun and decent cuisine. The less sophisticated want sun, cheap alcohol and freedom from British licensing laws. But the real problem of Abroad is that it allows the British to escape from their fellow countrymen. Which is to say from the enforced intimacy of life on a small, overcrowded island whose inhabitants can place one another instantly in a hierarchy of

mutual distaste. From a homeland which specialises in stratifications of behaviour so subtly coded as to defy the most assiduous (especially the most assiduous) self-improvers, the British can transport themselves to countries where they are no longer immediately typecast by their voices and manners.

The British carouse and debauch when they go abroad as if they had just been let out of prison because that is exactly how they feel. They have been released, not just from clouds and rain and the inhibiting superciliousness of their betters. And while the working classes flee to Spain to escape knowing smirks whenever they open their mouths, their middle class counterparts are flying to Tuscany and Provence to avoid the vulgarity of English holiday-makers of the wrong sort. The really great thing about Abroad is that there is so much of it. Dividing England into socially acceptable and unacceptable bits with universally understood "keep off" signs, works less well now that everyone has a car. Only the vastness of the

rest of the world can now allow Englishmen of different castes to stay far enough away from one another.

Clearly then, there is only one way for Britain to compete as a holiday centre. It must either give up on the indigenous trade altogether and concentrate instead on luring unprejudiced Europeans to its beauty spots. (This is going on already. A surprising number of Germans were to be seen in regimented rows of folding chairs alongside Lake Windermere last week.) Or it must dedicate itself to a serious programme of de-classing the traditional British holiday. Somehow the old rigid expectations must be broken down: toffs to the country, wallies to the seaside; inns for proper people, cabs for the riff-raff. A whole new infrastructure, untainted by the old feudal assumptions, must grow up to serve customers who no longer wish to live within the cultural limitations of their parents' generation.

For a start, there must be eating and drinking places which are not stereotyped in their appeal. Pubs

which cannot serve families unless they have a garden (on the principle that your children may only watch you drink if they are exposed to the elements while doing it) ensure that the primary watering places of the countryside will never break free from their hard drinking associations and become meeting places for everyone who happens to be in the locality. "Family rooms" set aside for child-encumbered adults are often simply dismal enclosures hived off from the main bars where noisy local louts are playing darts. There are few places to break bread in the country where families who want to get away from the old working class recreations of drinking and delinquency may enjoy themselves.

British holiday-making has been hierarchically segregated for so long that no institutions exist which cut across class barriers. An inn with all the accoutrements to attract the "right" kind of customer (chintz curtains, open fire, exposed beams) instantly warns off the carful of tanned Georgians touring the Northern moors looking for a cheerful country boozers. For the English to return home willingly, there must be places for them to sit down together which are congenial enough to neutralise their mutual loathing.

When it is right to fight

David Owen argues British troops must go to the Balkans



"Europe is ready... to help": Frankfurt Allgemeine's sharp comment on European impotence in the violent civil war

John Major's thoughtful and obviously concerned letter to me about the tragedy in Bosnia in which he wrote that it is not the time to think in terms of military action should make anyone reassess their views. When he says "we are not dealing with an orthodox war, a single enemy, a frontline or clearly identifiable targets" he is rightly emphasising the truly complex nature of the problem.

I suggested using air power after a Security Council ultimatum against any unauthorised movement or firing of military aircraft, tanks, armoured personnel carriers or artillery in former Yugoslavia. The prime minister fears "that numbers of forces involved, the likely length of operations and the level of casualties (civilian as well as military) would all be higher" than might appear.

Clearly Nato aircraft would risk being shot down by Yugoslav army ground to air missiles. But they would not face as sophisticated a challenge as presented by the air defences in Iraq.

The prime minister's anxieties appear to be greatest when he says he does not "detect any support in Parliament or in public opinion for operations which would tie down large numbers of British forces in difficult and dangerous terrain for a long period".

But no one is suggesting that British forces should be committed on the ground on their own as part of a UN force. If French have done so, why not Britain? I have never suggested that UN forces could physically separate the combatants in Bosnia. All we can hope to do is to give military

support to humanitarian exercises on the ground, and buttress the defence of places such as Sarajevo. We can also hope that by sharply reducing the use of heavy armaments, the Muslims in Bosnia will be able to hold their ground, so that in any peace talks they have some territory to negotiate over. This is a moral issue. History really is repeating itself in Europe. And this time we can see it on television. The annexation of territory, the concentration camps, even the jargon is the same with racial purity being replaced by the even more odious "ethnic cleansing". We have been spared the gas chambers, but tales of death and brutality make it no exaggeration to warn of a holocaust.

The UN has to be able to respond to wars, violence and famine worldwide and its Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Chali, has been right to suggest that Britain should contribute 2,000 troops, along with a similar number from the United States, to make a worldwide rapid deployment force of 20,000 troops.

Over Yugoslavia the European Community tried to take on the peacemaking responsibilities of

the UN. The foreign ministers of the European Community in December recognised Croatia against the unanimous advice of both their own negotiator, Lord Carrington, and the UN Secretary General's special representative, Cyrus Vance. It was a grave error which was compounded by then recognising Bosnia without the slightest intention of standing by the territorial integrity of the country that they had so recently recognised.

UN sanctions are being flouted in Europe. Oil travels down the highways or rivers of Europe,

while our navies patrol the Adriatic. Guns and equipment continue to flow to the Serbs and the Croats. It will not be long before Bosnia is divided up between the Serbs and the Croats. After that we can expect to see heavy military equipment move down to Kosovo to put the squeeze on ethnic Albanians to flee across the border into Albania. At that stage people will be appalled that we did not take action to freeze heavy military equipment in at least its present position. The call for intervention from the air now does not relate only to Bosnia. It is a vital part of preventing any further military build-up in Kosovo.

If domestic public opinion in America and Britain demands action then the international response will not be far behind. Those of us who believe the scale of the humanitarian abuses in Bosnia are such that Nato must reinforce the authority of the UN have a duty to continue to put the case for greater military involvement. Vietnam is a false analogy. What is being advocated over Yugoslavia is not American, British, European or even Nato action but peace enforcement through the United Nations. If the UN has to spend some years keeping the peace in the area that is a necessary price to pay.

The UN faces humanitarian challenges all over the world. We in Europe should have done far more to respond to the crisis in Somalia, but we will never be able to respond if we cannot even summon up the indignation to intervene now to stop the carnage in the Balkans.

Lord Owen was foreign secretary 1977-9.

...and moreover CRAIG BROWN

I went into our village pub, elbowing my way through five burly pint-drinkers and asked for a packet of crisps from the thirty-stone barman who was wearing a string vest and no shirt.

"Flavour?" he barked.

"Cheese and onion, please," I piped back.

"Oh, mommy, mommy, mommy!" he replied, bursting into tears. "Oh, mommy, mommy, mommy, mommy!"

I held out some change, but one of the pint-drinkers shook his head. "He didn't say 'money'," he informed me. "he said 'mommy'."

As the tears dripped their way onto the absorbent vest, the barman choked an explanation. "I'm sorry," he said. "But my mommy always promised me a packet of cheese and onion crisps when I switched from short trousers to long trousers."

"Lovely," I said.

"... But my mommy passed away before I had earned that packet," he continued, bursting into fresh tears.

"Cheer up," I said. "You can always have one of mine."

"... And I vowed, there and then, on my mommy's grave, to every man and woman, every girl and boy, could hold their heads high and eat their own packet of cheese and onion crisps. And I tell you this, I will not rest until that day has come. For my mommy. For your mommy. And for everybody's mommy. Thank you." He then pulled his handkerchief out of a pocket, blew his

nose and started to pour a pint of lager and lime.

"It's the American Democratic Convention," he whispered to one of the regulars. "He's been like that ever since he watched it on television the other week. The smallest thing sets him off, and he can't stop talking about his childhood, and the seemingly insurmountable problems he strove to overcome."

"And he's not the only one," burped his mate, someone normally so masculine that he eats his cigarettes straight from the packet. "I'm the same. I guess I just haven't realised it up to now because when I was a wee bitty kid my father walked out on my mother, leaving her with seven hungry mouths and one skinny mule to feed and there was no time for tears, no, sir, and I said to myself, I said, John, if ever you manage, through sheer hard graft, to better yourself, you're gonna make your mommy a very happy woman. And I tell you this, these days, when I stride back after three-and-a-half hours slog in this public house, I never, never, NEVER forget to bring her a packet of peanuts. Because that is what I believe in. Those are my values. And they are the values I want you to share with me today. And with that he raised his great brawny arm and wiped a big tear from his eye.

By this time, all five of the burly beer-drinkers were howling and bawling "mommy, I love ya, mommy." So for a bit of peace I sidled over to the snug bar, where three old codgers

were huddled over halibuts of milk stout.

"Like as if we might be in for more rain," I said, "Stimms'n grumble." This was what is to the snug bar has been traditionally intoned for nearly four hundred years. But I reply that emerged was a conventional. "My father never grumbled. He was a proud man," said one of the old codgers. "He was a bit of a snob, but he was proud. One day I pulled myself up to his full height - 5ft 3in - and he said to me, 'son, promise me this, at you'll always treat everybody the same, be they high or, rich or poor, black or white. And I promise you this, Dai, wherever you are, I've kept word. Ever since you passed away, I've treated everybody - all - just the same."

"Yes, like dirt," whistled one of his colleagues, a Bonte, who then launched into his own tearful childhood reminiscence. "We were rich," he said, "but we were ashamed. My nana had 26 mouths to feed - four of us, and 22 staff. I tell you, it was hard having it so soft where no struggle at all, but struggling against it. And I remember, through all my lack of effort, I succeeded in failing. And that is how I got here I am today, drinking milk stout in a snug bar. Thank you." By now the pub was josh with tears. With a handful days still to go before the USling day, a notice on the pub bar advised that galoshes should be worn at all times.

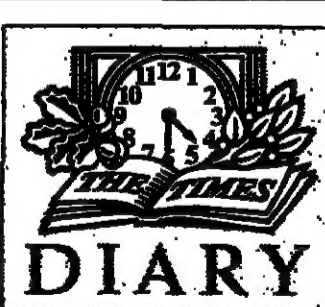
Postcards from the edge

DRIVEN to distraction by the posse of builders who have invaded 10 Downing Street, John Major has started his annual holiday early this year, packing his red boxes into the back of his official Daimler and heading for the relative peace of his Great Sikeley home. His London abode has been turned into a building site as comprehensive security measures are installed over the next two months in response to last year's mortar bomb attack.

On Friday, the Majors fly to Barcelona for a whistle-stop tour of the Olympic Games, followed by their regular ten days in Candeleda, a tiny village 120 miles south of Madrid. They will be staying in the eight-bedroom mansion owned by the father-in-law of the foreign office minister Tristan Garel-Jones. The Majors fed at home in the village (population 6,000) and can be seen pottering around the baker's store, the supermarket and the local cafe.

The Kinnocks this year have abandoned John Mortimer, Melvyn Bragg and the *chianti* set in Tuscany, heading instead for a racier scene in America. The former Labour leader will be staying with his old friend David Hockney in California for part of the holiday.

David Mellor, back in Britain after spending two days at the Olympics, has had enough of exotic attractions. The national heritage secretary, difficult to pin down at the best of times, is keeping a low profile by taking a touring holiday in Britain.



Lady Glover for three weeks, on her 2,000-acre estate in Gstaad. But it will not be much of a holiday. Robin Harris, the head of her private office, has gone with her to work on the long-awaited memoirs. John O'Sullivan, editor of the *National Review* in New York, her chief speech writer, has flown in. And the postcards could have a rather erudite flavour this year: Sir Denis is tagging along for the golf. One of Lady Thatcher's aides says: "The word holiday does not exist in this office's vocabulary."

Linford Christie should hang on to his Union Jack flag. The flag, borrowed from a British fan in the crowd at the Olympic stadium and draped round the athlete's body during his lap of honour, now adorns his bedroom wall in Barcelona. Christie says he does not know who gave him the flag, but he is keen to hang on to it. It may prove to have more than mere sentimental value. A similar Union flag, which has been to the moon and back, is to go on sale at Christie's next week, and is expected to fetch £800. Its former part of the Apollo IV space mission in 1971. The flag, tucked into the space suit of Colonel Alfred Warden, was with him on his 40-minute deep-space walk 170,255 miles from earth.

Siena thing?

EDWARD McMillan-Scott, the MEP for York, has leapt to the defence of his distant ancestor Sir Walter Scott. The novelist, whose enthusiasm for tartan has left a legacy of tammy shops from Pitlochry to Pollewe, has been criticised for introducing the kilt as Scotland's national dress. His detractors say tartan is a romantic invention. "Not so," says McMillan-



Scott, a devotee of the picture galleries of Siena. He has discovered a painting of St Anne, mother of the Virgin Mary, dating from 1348, by the artist Pietro Lorenzetti, which depicts the saint reclining on a Macleod tartan rug. "This confirms a direct line of descent for this particular tartan," says McMillan-Scott, who wears the kilt occasionally and who learnt to play the bagpipes as a boy. He favours the Scott tartan. The McMillan tartan is pretty garish. It looks like the MCC tie - a rather lively orange and yellow.

Loving tribute

JULIET STEVENSON, used to bringing the house down when she appears on stage, was particularly pleased at the enthusiastic recep-

tion for her latest performance, at the Chichester Festival Theatre on Sunday. She devised *British in Love*, a poetry and prose reading for charity, as a tribute to her father, Mike, an ex-brigadier who died in June.

Stevenson began work on the performances while her father was alive. "Dad became ill and the idea for the show was born in his hospital room. He always wanted me to perform at the Festival Theatre, and thought it would be wonderful to do something this summer," she says.

Space Odyssey

ARTHUR C. Clarke, in London this week to promote *Odyssey*, the story of his extraordinary life, found a blank in his hectic diary late last night to meet Helen Sharman, Britain's first spacewoman. Clarke, who flies back to his home in Sri Lanka tomorrow, was keen to meet the woman from Mars. "I admire anyone who is prepared to go into space," he says. The wheelchair-bound science-fiction writer, who will be 75 this year, is keeping mum about what they discussed. There may have been a passing reference to his latest project however. Clarke, who first started contributing to *Playboy* in the 1960s, is writing a piece about sex in space under the title "Nasa Sutra".

● The Queen Mother, who celebrates her 92nd birthday today, has lost none of her natural authority. A group of workmen drilling outside her private apartments at Clarence House recently were astonished to be recalled to base almost as soon as they had started. The noise was simply too much for the royal ear, and a call was put through to Westminster city council, which removed its workforce forthwith.

1501 66 11 11



MIRAGE AND REALITY

After months of testing the enemy's readiness, Iraq has launched Operation Desert Nerve. James Baker's characterisation of President Saddam Hussein's game plan as "cheat and retreat" misleads by implying that these are merely tactical manoeuvres by a cornered dictator. Saddam has three goals: to run the UN out of the country or disable its operations there; to regain total freedom to crush all internal opposition; and to convince Iraq's neighbours that they would be wise to start dealing again with the regional power ultimately capable of crushing them.

Saddam's campaign depends on demonstrating that he makes the running, forcing the Gulf coalition onto the defensive. The second anniversary of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait this week made his point for him. America marked the date by advancing the timetable for joint military exercises with the Emirate's exiguous armed forces, dispatching an extra 2,400 troops to take part, and supplying Kuwait with Patriot batteries to counter the potential threat from Scud missiles — weapons Iraq should already have destroyed under the terms of last year's United Nations ceasefire resolutions.

Saddam celebrated August 2 with a further attack on a UN guard and a media campaign proclaiming that "Kuwait is part of Iraq", hence its return to its "rightful owners" was only a matter of time. At the distance of Washington or London, Saddam's decision to have the newspaper *Babel* run a front page picture of him praying on the seashore of Kuwait City may look like a politically risky affront to the intelligence of ordinary Iraqis, all of whom know his displays of religious fervour to be an opportunistic facade and most of whom are daily reminded by widowhood, shortages or cratered streets that Saddam's grab for the "19th province" ended disastrously. But the message he wishes to put across is that he has outstayed the worst and that Iraq's return to dominance of the region is inevitable.

Over the border, Kuwaitis have been glued to Iraq's anniversary television series *Mirage and Reality*, not just because it rehearses Iraq's "historical" claim to Kuwait but

because it reveals how confidently Saddam assesses his freedom to renege on his binding legal commitments to the UN. Iraq has not only denounced the UN's mapping of the frontier, but has yet to return looted Kuwaiti property or — still more significantly — to hand back around 800 Kuwaiti citizens kidnapped during the war. Kuwait's continued vulnerability has been underscored by Washington's need to demonstrate American readiness "to go on short notice and to reassure our friends".

Meanwhile Iraq has reconstituted the eight divisions of its elite Republican Guard, rebuilt and probably strengthened its air defences, and can still field nearly 4,000 tanks and artillery pieces. Under the most rigorous sanctions ever drawn up by the UN, Iraq has rebuilt and retrained, and used Jordan as its satrap for the purpose.

From this regained ground, Saddam is now openly inviting his neighbours to join the man all the power of the West cannot beat. The UN has attempted to deal with Saddam by normal diplomatic methods — laying itself open, in consequence, to the humiliation of its inspectors and the denial of Iraqi visas to international relief workers.

Military exercises in Kuwait are not irrelevant but they are insufficient as a response. James Baker has finally met the leaders of Iraq's opposition, a coalition of Kurds, Shias and Sunnis. That contact must be followed by action to protect the Shias in the south, where the UN reports that Saddam is systematically bombing villages in defiance of the ceasefire, and to supply the Kurds with the food Saddam has illegally denied them. And it should prepare to confiscate Iraq's frozen assets.

Regaining the initiative in a war of nerves, the kind Saddam plays with far more skill than military campaigns, will be difficult. But Iraq is now in violation of 22 of the UN's ceasefire conditions, 22 reasons for co-ordinated political and military action. Saddam has shown his hand. There will be no peace in the region unless his ambitions are exposed as a mirage and international law is seen to be the enduring reality.

KINNOCK'S SECOND WIND

Nell Kinnock has become a leading candidate to be Britain's second commissioner in Brussels from next January, alongside a reappointed Sir Leon Brittan. The decision should not be rushed. It is not an easy one either for Mr Kinnock or for John Major who formally makes the nomination. Domestic political factors overlap with Britain's interests in Europe. But there is a strong case why it would be in the interests of Mr Kinnock himself, of the Labour party and of Britain for him to be appointed, while even serving the purposes of Mr Major too.

Little good can come from Mr Kinnock remaining at Westminster. Since he announced his decision to stand down as Labour leader in mid-April, he has become an isolated and lonely figure. Former colleagues have distanced themselves from him and have moved behind John Smith. Mr Kinnock and Mr Smith have never been close personally. And no new leader welcomes a predecessor looking over his shoulder.

It is not only in the Labour party's interests that Mr Kinnock should seek a new role; it is also in his own interests. He is still only 50 and his great talents of energy and drive could easily be wasted. Britain does not treat its former party leaders well, and they do not always help themselves, as the example of Sir Edward Heath shows.

It is not in Britain's interests that a gifted politician at his prime should be shunted to the side if there is still a fruitful role available to him in public life. And as a fellow Briton Mr Kinnock shares many distinctive national perspectives with Mr Major and with his putative partner in European commissioning, Sir Leon Brittan. Few issues in Brussels are truly party-political.

Britain has a mixed record in its nominations to the commission. There was a strong

start with the late Christopher Soames and George Thomson, followed by the presidency of Roy Jenkins, and then by a dip. Lord Cockfield was an innovator as a commissioner in pushing the idea of a single market, but he had strained relations with former ministerial colleagues in London. Sir Leon has raised the British profile with his work on competition policy, and has kept in close touch with London. But recent Labour nominees, Stanley Clinton-Davis and Bruce Millan, have not been from-rank.

Mr Major's boast to be at the heart of Europe was made on behalf not only of his party but of the country as a whole. Mr Kinnock's nomination would buttress such a claim in an unpartisan way. Mr Major also has a deserved reputation for observing the political courtesies and being magnanimous to defeated opponents. But the prime minister also has to weigh the interests of the government and his own party. Some Tories fear that, as a commissioner, Mr Kinnock would turn into a strong ally of Jacques Delors's centralist ambitions. The appointment is particularly sensitive in view of Tory difficulties over ratification of the Maastricht treaty.

Such fears are exaggerated. Because Sir Leon would remain Britain's senior commissioner and a vice-president, Mr Kinnock would have to settle for one of the more junior portfolios. The government could reasonably object to him taking over responsibility for the social charter. But there are other areas where he could be a successful commissioner without colliding continually with the government in London. There are risks for the government in sponsoring Mr Kinnock. But the potential gains, for him, for Britain and for the EC, outweigh them. After nine frustrating years as Leader of the Opposition, he deserves the chance to serve in Brussels.

ILLUMINATION CANCELLED

The train now standing at platform ten is not going to Blackpool any more. British Rail announced yesterday, as part of its annual review of routes, that it is ending direct InterCity services between Euston and Blackpool. A spokesman said, with the genteel euphemism of his trade: "The action results from very low use of the trains for through travel. The Blackpool service requires a costly diesel locomotive for the short section between Preston and Blackpool."

It is important not to take a south-centred view of the closure, like the headline that declared: "Fog in Channel — Continent cut off." Blackpool is the seaside holiday resort for the industrial workers of the Midlands and the North, not from London. Arnold Bennett called it the huge flower that springs from the horrid bed of the factory system: "They all earn their living by hard and in repulsive work, and at Blackpool they are in splendour! They will work hard at joy till they drop from exhaustion." Most of the holiday-makers who set out for Blackpool with buckets and spades and whining children are not starting by train or from London, and will not be put out by the closure.

But the Blackpool trains are to be closed on September 28, when the Labour party conference has just opened. A few holiday-makers apart, the small but influential political class is the other main once-a-year user of the London-Blackpool line. Since the modern political party system was established, one or other of the two biggest parties has held its conference in Blackpool in its alternate years as a populist sop to the North. Labour goes in for beer and brotherhood. Tories for black ties and deeply embarrassing suburban balls. Blackpool alone has the

accommodation — and in these foul days, the security — to cope with the autumn political invasion. The direct train down from London was the beginning of the holiday year, the first day back from the holidays, the occasion for booze and bitching and not very well camouflaged ambition.

Once the conferencing politico has tramped to Blackpool, the Empress Ballroom of the Winter Gardens with its secretive pillars supplies the best site in the United Kingdom for conspiracy and caballing. The morning photo-call from the Imperial Hotel to the Winter Gardens beside the sad grey polluted sea is as close as British politicians get to real life in a year. Magic falls from the air for both holidaymakers and politicians, when they have to change trains for a regional and misnamed "Sprinter" train at Preston.

In the spirit of the times, grey accountants must run the railways on the cold basis of passenger volume. If they have got their calculations right (a generous hypothesis for the hopeless trades of accountancy and economics), the London/Blackpool line may no longer be strictly profitable.

So here is a conundrum for David Mellor, Secretary of State (and disposer of public funds) for National Heritage. What else is the national seaside heritage, if not the original boat-faced English landlady, the famous illuminations, the best fish-and-chips in the land, the Blackpool Tower and Pleasure Beach, and Reginald Dixon on the theatre organ? And if the annual spectacle of politicians entraining at Euston to mark the opening of the autumn partying season is not included in the national political heritage, then what is? Why not make it the first-ever "listed" train service and give it a grant?

Diverting the jobless, wrestling with the Bundesbank

From Mr Simon Haskel and Sir Sigmund Sternberg

Sir, Within the past fortnight the Building Employers' Confederation has predicted that another 100,000 jobs in the construction and building materials sector will be lost by Christmas, while National Heritage estimates that 75 per cent of the properties in its care require maintenance.

Is it beyond the wit of this government to arrange for construction workers to be paid and trained for working on National Heritage buildings instead of receiving unemployment pay? It seems to us that everybody has something to gain from this — construction workers and employers, architects, the government and the nation.

Undoubtedly the government will give many reasons why this is not possible. In response we would ask where is the spirit of enterprise so warmly proclaimed by Sir Allen Sheppard and 39 others in their letter to *The Times* on March 17, during the election campaign. A Tory victory, they said, was necessary to retain this spirit of enterprise.

Sadly, we were right when we said in our response (March 18) that the spirit died in 1989 and only a Labour government would direct some of our enterprise towards those areas where it is needed to create an economy and society of which we can be proud.

There is action an enterprising government and nation can take to ease our economic ills. The only action this government is taking is to make predictions that there will be an upturn. Meanwhile our citizens can look forward to more job losses and the possible repossession or loss of their homes.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON HASKEL (Chairman),
SIGMUND STERNBERG
(Deputy Chairman),
Labour Finance and Industry Group,
63a Ockendon Road, N1,
July 29.

From Viscount Watkinson, CH

Sir, Remembering as I do the problems experienced over relations with the IMF towards the end of the last Labour government, I cannot but feel sympathy for those who have to comment on the current economic situation in Britain. But would not the temperature be somewhat reduced if those who feel that they must comment were in more general

agreement that there cannot be any "quick fix" — at least for the following situations:

A housing market which has lost the impetus of belief that any property at any price must be a "good spec".
A retail market which is now firmly subject to the discipline of "have I really got the money to pay for it".
A European monetary market which now finds itself hitched to the wrong wagon, in the shape of the Bundesbank, and does not yet know what it can do about it.

Solutions to these and other problems are only to be found in the long term. A frantic search for an easy way out at this moment will only prolong the agony.

Yours sincerely,
WATKINSON
(President, CBI, 1976-7),
Tyma House, Shore Road,
Bosham, Chichester, West Sussex.

From Mr David Townley

Sir, Britain's membership of the exchange-rate mechanism requiring high interest rates (set by Germany) need not result in the "locked in effect", leaving the Chancellor powerless as argued by Alan Walters et al (letter, July 14). There is a European solution where individual EC countries can pursue their own policies without threatening the ERM or adjustments within the ERM.

If Britain were to lower interest rates by 2 per cent (something the Chancellor would love to do) there would be no doubt be a sterling crisis. This could be countered, however, by a massive intervention by EC members to protect sterling, together with a public statement to that effect.

More than anything else this would convince doubters of the ERM, and as German interest rates fell, future support for sterling would be unnecessary. Months or years of slow growth could be avoided.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TOWNLEY,
52 Worcester Road,
Sutton, Surrey.

From the Earl of Perth

Sir, Bringing the east German economy up to west German standards is proving exceedingly costly. Bonn has increased taxes to help achieve this end. The Bundesbank has decided this is not sufficient and has raised interest rates to nearly 10 per cent to check overheating. It is not for us to query internal German policies.

Horses at Olympics

From the Executive Director of the League Against Cruel Sports

Sir, Your caption to the distressing photograph (July 30) of the exhausted Olympic horse Dekaz being hoisted by its feet into the back of a truck describes the unfortunate animal as "over-ridden" — undoubtedly an accurate description.

In Britain, "over-riding" is a specific offence under the Protection of Animals Act 1911. If the Olympics had been held in Britain this year, and the same incident had occurred, the Russian rider of Dekaz, Oleg Karpov, could well have returned home with a criminal conviction for cruelty instead of a medal.

Vatican-Israel relations

From the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews

Sir, I warmly welcome the creation by the Vatican and Israel of a permanent joint commission to study subjects of mutual interest (report, July 30). Mr Navarro-Valls, the chief Vatican spokesman, defined the aim as the achievement of "a normalisation of relations".

The Second Vatican Council, and much that has flowed therefrom, have had a continuing beneficial influence on the age-long relationship between the Church and the Jews. While devoted to the retention of our own religious heritage, the Board of Deputies is profoundly attached to the development of inter-faith and inter-group dialogue and

Shire reforms

From Lady Maude

Sir, I am sure that Councillor Theobald and his colleagues (letter, July 20) do most conscientiously look after the interests of the electors of East Sussex: helped, no doubt, by the real affection and loyalty which people feel for their shire county.

But they feel even more strongly about the place where they actually live. Indeed, it is largely due to the determined efforts of local people that these places still manage to retain so much of their historic character, vernacular architecture and sense of social identity.

Would it not make sense, therefore, if such places — particularly our ancient market towns — could regain their pre-1974 powers over purely local matters, thus relieving the county council, as prime authority, of much local detail and unnecessary expense? Nor can I believe that calculating the necessary funding would present insuperable difficulties in this age of computerisation.

Of course, some town councils might be reluctant to take on responsibilities. But this need in no way prevent such town councils as do so wish being empowered to take control over many purely local affairs (including, for example, parking, street lighting and cleaning, litter collection, conservation and plan-

But must the rest of the European Community suffer too? Despite deep recession and ever-rising unemployment must it continue to match German interest rates, unable itself to modernise until the east German economy is reborn?

Surely the time has come for all other ERM countries, strictly following ERM rules and in consultation with Germany, to readjust their currencies, thus saving their economies and curing the hardships of their peoples. This need not lead to inflation but would allow the stimulant of lower interest rates and set on course economic recovery.

At present the rest of the Community are bearing part of the cost of German unification and modernisation and are suffering grievously in the doing. Is it in Europe's interest to have, by say 1995, one country modernised and totally dominant economically while the rest of Europe has declined?

Yours truly,
PERTH,
House of Lords.

From Mr A. J. D. Pile

Sir, I am tired of hearing the chairman of large companies knock the government each time an AGM or similar occasion gives them a platform.

This food manufacturing company, supplying the high-street multiples, has a turnover of £20 million a year. I, and a healthy management team, have met shareholder expectations in the last three years. Shareholders rightly expect us to react effectively to market, economic and other difficulties. They are not interested in excuses and nor should they be.

If managers cannot produce the profits expected of them, I suggest they move aside and let someone in who can. I, or any member of my team, would happily make him or herself available on half the salary of these multinational worthies — and we wouldn't expect 1 per cent increase until the shareholders got the results they expected.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. D. PILE
(Managing Director),
Orchard House Foods Limited,
Bell House, Fleming Road,
Earlswood Industrial Estate,
Corby, Northamptonshire,
July 31.

Business letters, page 19

Apparently questions are already being raised about whether boxing should continue as an Olympic sport. At least boxers are willing participants, are aware of the risks they take, and officials are charged with the duty of intervening to prevent excessive punishment. In Olympic equestrian events it is the horse that does most of the work and takes most of the risks, but it is the rider who receives the medal.

Is it not time for performing animals to be axed from the Games?

Yours sincerely,
J. BARRINGTON,
Executive Director,
League Against Cruel Sports,
Spartan House,
83-87 Union Street, SE1,
July 30.

co-operation on matters of common concern in society.

Prominent in the presentation of the Church's changing outlook in Christian-Jewish relations have been the recent distinguished public addresses by Cardinal Cassidy. An important facet impinging upon the relationship has been the Church's attitude to the state of Israel.

It should be the universal hope that out of the work of the commission, and other factors, will before long emerge full diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel.

Yours faithfully,
ISRAEL FINSTEIN,
President,
Board of Deputies of British Jews,
Woburn House,
Tavistock Square, WC1,
July 30.

In that case, could not the principle of opting out, which the government has applied so successfully to health and education, be extended to local government, in accordance with the published aims of the citizen's charter, *The Right to Choose*?

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA MAUDE,
Old Farm, South Newington,
Nr Banbury, Oxfordshire.

From Councillor Norman Baker

Sir, In his letter Councillor Theobald, leader of East Sussex County Council, states that "my council does not use chargepayers' money on 'self-serving publicity' or 'propaganda'."

Your readers may like to know that days after his letter appeared, I asked Councillor Theobald at a meeting of the county council to list the expenditure incurred since January 1, 1991, "where the main or whole purpose was to improve the external image of the county council".

The written reply listed 19 separate headings and came to a grand total of £220,329.

Yours sincerely,
NORMAN BAKER,
2 Railway Cottages, Beddingham,
Lewes, East Sussex.

Public scrutiny of military boards

From Mr E. J. Porter

Sir, Your report of July 25, "Parents lose battle to learn how son died in Falklands", shows another lamentable example of an all-too-frequent use of regulations which were, I suspect, never intended to hide the circumstances of accidents from those with a valid interest.

It must therefore cause considerable disquiet when a High Court judge describes the decision of the then Secretary of State for Defence not to disclose the circumstances surrounding the death of the Sanjos's son in a boat accident in the Falklands in 1985 as "outrageous".

In approaching military investigations there can, of course, be compelling reasons for secrecy and security and it is entirely proper that details which would genuinely assist a potential enemy should be protected. However, this must not be used as a convenient pretext to withhold information that is simply embarrassing.

The findings of military boards of enquiry where there has been loss of life in peacetime, or where there has been considerable loss of public property and therefore a loss to the taxpayer, should be open to public scrutiny as a matter of course, except in cases where there is a genuine risk to national security.

In these special cases, the onus should be upon the Ministry of Defence to prove to an independent adjudicator that the details should be withheld. It is only reasonable that one of the four big-spending government departments should be open to public scrutiny as many others already are.

As a retired officer who has dealt with many enquiries I cannot see any valid reason why the present excessive secrecy, and questionable restrictions which permeate all aspects of enquiries, should be preserved. Unwarranted secrecy corrosively devalues the basis on which necessary secrecy is founded.

This and the other cases which, by virtue of the thick veil of silence and misinformation that surrounds them, have convinced grieving next of kin that a "cover up" is taking place, serve no one, least of all the armed services, and simply bring authority into disrepute.

If it is this government's intention to make the public sector more accountable to the public and the prime minister's personal wish to sweep away "cobwebs of secrecy" which veil too much of government business, then this unfortunate area should have early expert attention and amending legislation.

Yours faithfully,
E. J. PORTER,
42 Church Street,
Caine, Wiltshire,
July 28.

Burger battle

From Mr Michael Bench and others

Sir, Your report of July 31 (later editions) suggests that a McDonald's burger bar is now certain to come to Hampshire. This is not so. Following the High Court decision in McDonald's favour we are confident that there will be an appeal, and that there are sound reasons why the earlier decisions may be reversed.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BENCH (Chairman, Hampshire Conservation Area Advisory Committee),
PETER GORB (Chairman, Heath and Old Hampshire Society),
MICHAEL BLACK (Chairman, Shoppers' Action Committee),
22b East Heath Road, NW3,
August 3.

Legalising cannabis

From Mr N. Hemmings

Sir, The advertisement to legalise cannabis (July 24) claims that people who use this drug do not fit any conventional stereotype.

Your leading article on the same day stereotypes the "black community" as preferring cannabis to other drugs, such as alcohol and nicotine; and also suggests that blacks (as a "community") think that British society is racist because cannabis is not legalised. In my view such sweeping generalisations are behind much of the prejudice often meted out to my black compatriots.

Yours sincerely,
N. HEMMINGS,
1 Lesmurdie Place,
Lossiemouth, Morayshire,
July 24.

Marilyn still twinkling

From Ms Jaqi Clayton

Sir, Bernard Levin ("In search of heavenly bodies", July 30) may be pleased to learn that Marilyn Monroe, who died 30 years ago tomorrow, has indeed been secured a place in the heavens. In 1988 we received an order from one of Miss Monroe's fans in Hollywood; and a star has been registered as the Marilyn Monroe Star (Corona Borealis RA 16h 0m 5s 30° 53').

More than 400,000 people have achieved immortality by having stars named after them since the foundation of the International Star Registry in 1979.

Yours faithfully,
JAQI CLAYTON,
International Star Registry,
24 Highbury Grove, N5,
August 3.

SOCIAL NEWS

Birthdays today

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother celebrates her birthday today.

Vice-Admiral Sir Patrick Boyl, 78; Mr David Bedford, composer, 55; Mr William Cooper, novelist, 82; Dr John Cunningham, MP, 53; Sir Russam Feroze, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 72; Professor H.L. Freeman, psychiatrist, 63; Sir George Godber, former chairman, Health Education Council, 84; Miss Georgina Hale, actress, 49; General Sir Reginald Hewson, 94; Mr Martin Jarvis, actor, 51; Mrs Rachel Jones, former chairman, Broadcasting Council for Wales, 84; Mr David Lange, CH, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, 50; Mr Simon Preston, organist, 54; Mr John Spalding, former chief executive, Halifax Building Society, 68; Mr Peter Squires, rugby player, 41; Sir Rodney Swiss, dentist, 88; Sir Michael Weston, diplomat, 55.

Institute of Physics

The following have been elected to Fellowship of the Institute of Physics by Council:

Professor Michael Bode, Liverpool Polytechnic; Dr Jean Boulton, British Aerospace plc; Dr Peter Butler, University of Liverpool; Dr John Connor, AEA Fusion, Culham Laboratory; Dr Anthony Cullis, Defence Research Agency; Professor John Darby, Napier Polytechnic; Edinburgh; Dr Brian Foster, University of Liverpool; Dr Harold Harper, National Power plc; Professor Azharul Islam, Rajshahi University, Bangladesh; Dr Ian Kenyon, University of Birmingham; Dr Peter Main, University of York; Dr Paul Mordin, Royal Observatory, Edinburgh; Professor Ryōji Ohba, Hokkaido University, Japan; Professor Robert Owens, University of Glasgow; Mr Philip Rogers, Pilkington PE Ltd; Professor Sven Sigmund, University of Trondheim; Dr Roy Taylor, UMIST; Dr Richard Tuck, Thorn Microwave Devices Ltd.

Forthcoming marriages

Major S.J. Colling and Miss H.M. Robinson. The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Mr and Mrs Frank Colling, of Lichfield, Staffordshire, and Helen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Vernon Robinson, of Coventry.

Mr P.M. Cooper and Miss V.A.K. Good. The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs David Cooper, of Pepper House, Hale, Cheshire, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Good, of Middle Bank Hall, Bradley Green, Worcestershire.

Mr P.S. Hickman and Miss C.R. Grant. The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Hickman, of Hale Park, Hampshire, and Candida, daughter of Dr and Mrs Roderick Grant, of Alderholt Park, Dorset.

Mr M.T. Schneppert and Miss R.E.A. James. The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs C.C. Schneppert, of Seal, Kent, and Rebecca, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D.V. James, of St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Marriage. Mr P.A. Poitier and Miss R.A. Darke. The marriage took place on July 30, at Mr Paul Poitier, elder son of Mr and Mrs Henry Poitier, of Bishop's Stortford, and Miss Rebecca Darke, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Clifford Darke, of Blaizac, France.

Appointments

Mr Michael St John Hopper to be a full-time member of the Lands Tribunal.

Judge Macchia, QC, to succeed Judge Holden as a member of the Main Board of the Judicial Studies Board and as Chairman of its Tribunals Committee from August 1.

Latest wills

Recent wills include:

Professor Sir Henry Clifford Darby, of Cambridge, Professor of Geography in the University of Cambridge 1967-77, and general editor of *The Domesday Geography of England*, left estate valued £327,569 net.

Mrs Adele Helene Selwinger, of Brooklands, Sale, Greater Manchester—Adele Dixon, the actress and singer—left estate valued at £510,254 net. She left her collection of Chinese and Mogul art, her Japanese netsuke and the diamond and baton chip brooch made by Cartier in 1940 to the Victoria and Albert Museum, and three-quarters of the residue to St Mary's Hospital, London W8, for use in the geriatric unit, and one-quarter of the residue to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Mr Alban Douglas Randall Carpe, of London W8, former Architect to the Diocese of Bath and Wells, and best known for the restoration of the West Front of Wells Cathedral, left estate valued at £915,708 net. He left £5,000 each to the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, and the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great, London EC1, £1,000 to the Royal Institution of Great Britain, and £500 each to Brecon Cathedral, St David's Cathedral, Dyfed, Wells Cathedral and the National Trust.

Other estates include (net, before tax):

Mr James Frederick Archdale, of Worcester—£1,871,943.

Mr George Childs, of Sunderland, Tyne and Wear—£1,531,674.

Mr Arthur Walwyn Jones, of Gerrards Cross, Bucks—£729,875.

Mr William Arthur Millard, of St Mary's, Isles of Scilly—£2,072,196.

Mrs Eleanor John Murray, of Barmingham, Kent—£583,161.

Mr Septimus Harold Meyvyn Price, of Uxbridge, West London—£645,554.

Mr John William Saleby, of Nantworth, Gloucester—£875,816.

Mr Charles Victor Sealor, of Morecambe, Lancs—£589,211.

Mr William Leonard Stokes, of Chesham, Bucks—£599,326.

Mr Anthony Woods Tyler, of Laverstock, Salisbury, Wilt—£907,362.



Space is the place: Arthur C. Clarke, pictured at the Science Museum yesterday, believes colonisation of other planets is inevitable. "If we find a cure for Aids on Mars we would be there in five years," he said.

Visionary foresees future that works

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

WHILE many men in their mid-seventies can be forgiven for thinking about the past, Arthur C. Clarke remains fixed on a glorious future in which elevators will lift people into space, Mars will become a garden of Eden complete with whispering brooks and soft forests and humans will leave their home to colonise the galaxies.

In Britain to promote his authorised biography, *Odeyssey*, by Neil McAleer, the doyen of British science fiction writing was yesterday back at the Science Museum in London. It was here that as a young man with the government's exchequer and audit department he became entranced by designs for mathematical machines including those of Sir Charles Babbage, the computer pioneer, which the museum has recently built.

Time may have taken its toll — Mr Clarke, who now lives in Sri Lanka, suffers from post polio syndrome and sometimes needs a wheelchair — but his mind remains as optimistic, energetic and entertaining as ever.

Earlier this year scientists reported that the space craft COBE had discovered lumpy structures which have

strengthened the Big Bang theory on the origins of the universe. Mr Clarke, however, remains sceptical about final answers to creation and is more amused with the notion that "the universe is a device designed for the perpetual astonishment of astronomers".

"Who would have dreamed up quasars, stars spinning at 1,000 times a second, and gamma ray bursts which may be industrial accidents," he smiles mischievously. For Clarke the idea that gamma ray bursts are simply signs of life on other worlds reflects one of his most cherished hopes, namely that NASA's new Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, which launches in October, will prove successful.

"If there is one wish I would like to see granted in my life time it is the detection of extraterrestrial life," he said.

He accepts that contacting aliens may hold dangers. "Do we meet Darth Vader? ... any scenario is conceivable. The one hope is that any malevolent, technologically inclined, civilisation would self destruct before it got here."

In terms of humanity, Mr Clarke believes there are no

technical limits to what can be achieved, only economic, political and legal bars. Gesturing to an exhibit of the Apollo moon lander in the space gallery, he added: "Almost everything which is around us right now would have seemed impossible a couple of hundred years ago."

Mr Clarke said he believed the biggest advance of the last 50 years was the unravelling of the human genetic code and that over the next 50 years the greatest breakthroughs will come in genetic engineering and genetic-based medicine.

The writer, who foresaw geostationary communications satellites 20 years before they arrived, said he believed the end of the Cold War and the difficulties of the former Soviet Union would, in the short term, hinder space travel.

In 2001: A Space Odyssey, the film he wrote, economic and political will have advanced technology so advanced that mankind could travel to the edges of his solar system. "My feeling is we will be lucky to get to Mars on 2020. If we find a cure for Aids on Mars we would be there in five years," mused Mr Clarke, who was born in Minehead, Somerset, 75

years ago this December. He described the recent sluggish progress as trivial within the context of civilisation. "Some time in the next century we should be a truly space-faring species," Mr Clarke said.

Unlike the makers of *Star Trek*, who had the crew of the Starship Enterprise flitting about at Warp factor speeds, he does believe that some laws of physics cannot be broken.

"I am pretty sure we will never be able to travel or communicate faster than the speed of light... so we may not know what is happening on Andromeda for two million years," he said.

However this limitation may be irrelevant to mankind who will, Mr Clarke believes, develop techniques for living much longer or for even giving it time to colonise the galaxies in "a few million years".

Alternatively humanity might cheat the speed of light by slipping through other dimensions to get from A to B.

Over recent months there have been a spate of books linking science and an ultimate creator. They carry titles such as *The Mind of God*, but Mr Clarke claims that he remains "an aggressive agnostic".

Birdwatchers flock to view errant stint

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BIRDWATCHERS from all over Britain travelled to Norfolk yesterday to see a bird that should have been on the other side of the world.

Instead of heading to Japan, China or Australia with the rest of its kind, the red-necked stint, feeding on the marshes at Cley, was accompanying other migrants, including little stints and curlew sandpipers, on their annual passage from the high hundra of Siberia down through the Baltic and Europe to Africa.

The sparrow-sized shore bird, only the second example of *Calidris ruficollis* recorded in Britain, was spotted on Sunday by Richard Millington, the Cley-based telephone information service. By the time of its departure yesterday nearly 1,000 twitchers from as far away as Devon and Scotland had converged on the bird sanctuary to catch a glimpse of it.

"It was tremendous to find it almost on my doorstep," Mr Millington said. "However, I had been half-expecting a red-necked stint to appear as one was reported in Sweden last week. The only other recorded sighting — on Humberside in 1986 — also came after one was spotted in Sweden, he said.

Mr Millington said that the bird was thousands of miles west of where it should be because it had probably gone "too far across the top of the world" when it flew to its Arctic breeding grounds in the spring. "It has overshoot on its northern migration and probably found itself on the hundra without a mate. It is hitching a ride with the curlew sandpipers and other birds which breed further to the west, and are now migrating the opposite way."

Yet all was not lost, Mr Millington said. "It will just migrate south with the other birds and feed perfectly well. It may well come back with

them next year and return to the hundra and nonreturn itself."

□ Huge colonies of internationally important birds will be at risk because of the trade and industry department's offer of new oil and gas exploration licences, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday (Kerry Gill writes).

The society has stepped up its campaign to persuade the government to curb drilling in some of the most sensitive sites from the Mersey Firth in Scotland down as far as Dyfed, the Wash and the Channel coast.

The RSPB has published a map showing the main areas where oil and gas exploration could threaten the existence of wildlife sites. It said that thousands of seabirds, mammals and other wildlife would be in danger in spite of strong objections made to the government by conservation bodies.

Frank Hamilton, the society's Scottish director, said: "The government seems to have ignored conservationists' concerns. Under European law the government has a responsibility to prevent natural habitats deteriorating."

Although the danger of oil spillages has always alarmed conservationists, the latest round of exploration licences announced last week contain many areas much closer to the coastline. The blocks include areas within sight of the northeast coast of Scotland, the Solway Firth, Galloway, The Wash and many islands containing valuable bird colonies of northwest Wales.

Tim Eggar, the energy minister, gave an assurance that work would be controlled by conditions to safeguard environmental and other interests, but this has not satisfied conservationists. Ian McCall, of the RSPB, said that in the north of Scotland species most at risk included eider ducks, scoters and razor bills.



Telephone 071 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telefax 071 782 7827

BIRTHS

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DEATHS

ADAMS - On August 2nd, peacefully in Bristol, Jack aged 80, beloved father of Robert, Thomas and Mary.

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OBITUARIES

REGINALD BECK

Reginald Beck, film editor, died on July 12 aged 90. He was born in St Petersburg in 1902.

THE artistic, imagination and technical dexterity of the film editor Reginald Beck informed many of the finest films made in this country. His most notable contributions were the result of his collaborations with two film directors: Laurence Olivier and Joseph Losey.

In 1944 Olivier was released from the Fleet Air Arm to direct his wartime morale-boosting film version of Shakespeare's *Henry V*. His experience as a film actor before the camera was already considerable, but this was to be his debut as a director. *Henry V* was an ambitious undertaking. Olivier had assembled the cream of British designers, cameramen, musicians and actors but was uncertain how best to deploy all this talent on film.

At that time Reginald Beck had a reputation around the studios as a man of intelligence and creativity. These qualities recommended him to Olivier, and his engagement as film editor on *Henry V* was pivotal to its astonishing success. He was by Olivier's side throughout the filming, assisting in the analysis of Alan Dent's text, the breaking down of the scenes into units and the camera direction. Olivier's debt to Beck is handsomely acknowledged in the final credits and on the same director's film version of *Hamlet*, made four years later. On *Hamlet* Beck acted as associate producer as well as supervising the editing.

Beck first worked with the American-born director Joseph Losey on *Gypsy* and *The Gentleman* (1958). In the 1960s and 1970s they made many more films together, among them *Eva*, *The Go-Between*, *Figures in a Landscape* and *The Assassination of Trotsky*. In 1985 Beck came out of retirement to edit Losey's *Steaming* which was to be the last picture for both of them. There was a



Olivier and Beck discuss a point during the filming of *Hamlet*

collaboration that over the years produced stimulating work, though the quality was variable. *Accident* (1967), probably the best of them all, was based by Harold Pinter on the Nicholas Mosley novel set in an Oxford college. Beck's editing, supremely confident in its deliberately measured pace, unfolds the complex story in an unhurried fashion, lingering over sunny meadows and trees. Less showy, perhaps, but equally compelling was Beck's editing of the first half of Losey's *Secret Ceremony* (1968). In it Elizabeth Taylor plays a prostitute who allows a strange young girl (Mia Farrow) to invite her back to the ornate mansion where she lives on her own and where she encourages her to take over the role of her dead mother. It is a subtle, disturbing situation and Beck's measured timing of the scenes keeps the audience wondering — what is going to happen next. This is narrative editing of the

highest order. To see Beck edit a sequence was rather like watching a cat play with a mouse. With one hand he would roll his film endlessly backwards and forwards in the synchroniser, his free hand held aloft twirling a chisagrap pencil. Suddenly the flow of film would stop dead, and his pencil would swoop down to mark the frame where the cut had to go.

Film production can be a stressful ordeal at times, and when a film was not going well Beck could be cantankerous and infuriating. His caustic criticisms, delivered with a withering smile, could shake the confidence of the strongest assistant. But when the film was going well again he would be buoyant and boisterous, and drag his editing crew round to the pub to have a few beers and discuss the football season.

Reginald Beck was born to an English industrialist father and a Swedish-Polish mother. He was 13 when political upheavals in Russia compelled the family to leave and settle in England. He first went to university in Canada, to McGill, Montreal, where he took a degree in economics. Later he enrolled at the Sorbonne, but the attractions of Parisian life proved irresistible and he never found time to graduate there. He was 25 when he entered the film business. His first credit was as editor on *Death At Broadcasting House* (1934), an entertaining trifle based on a story by Val Gielgud, with the author himself in the cast.

David McDonald's *This Man Is News*, in which Valerie Hobson teamed up amusingly with Barry K. Barnes, came in 1938, followed in 1939 by *The Stars Look Down*, in which Carol Reed was beginning to fulfil the promise he had shown in *Bank Holiday* the year before. Next Beck worked with that gentle romantic Anthony Asquith on two consecutive pictures, *Freedom Radio* and *Quiet Weekend*.

In 1951 he was assigned to his first

solo directorial job and his ambitions, he thought, were being realised. The picture was called *The Long Dark Hall* and starred Rex Harrison and Lilli Palmer. It was not a success, however, and did not owe any credit. Fortunately the public soon forgot it, though Beck did not. He always declared later that the experience was a detestable ordeal, and that it "cured" him of any ambitions to direct again. He finally shared the directing credit for *The Long Dark Hall* with Anthony Bushell.

In 1953 Laurence Olivier got together with Herbert Wilcox to set up a joint production of *The Beggar's Opera* based on John Gay's text. Peter Brook directed and Beck was the editor. This disastrous affair, known in the trade as "The Buggers' Uproar", shares with Korda's *Bonnie Prince Charlie* (1948) the distinction of being two of the biggest flops in the history of British films.

Wilcox's faith in the picture's editor was unshaken, however, and he next engaged Beck to edit his two Errol Flynn pictures, *Lilies in the Spring* and *King's Rhapsody*, in which Beck employed his skills to make sober sense of the performances of a leading man with a weakness for strong drink. Despite the overall poor quality of the production Beck was regarded in the film business as being thus qualified to work on Darryl F. Zanuck's British CinemaScope picture *Island in the Sun*. After a number of other pictures Beck's cunning manipulation of film showed in the extraordinary car chase through a traffic jam in Peter Yarrow's *Robbery* (1967), a version of the Great Train Robbery story.

For many years Beck and his wife Irene (who died at Christmas 1991) ran a pub in Buckinghamshire which became a popular rendezvous for colleagues in the industry. But when working on a production Beck would lodge with a sister in her Kensington flat. He leaves a son and a daughter.

APPRECIATIONS

Lord Cheshire

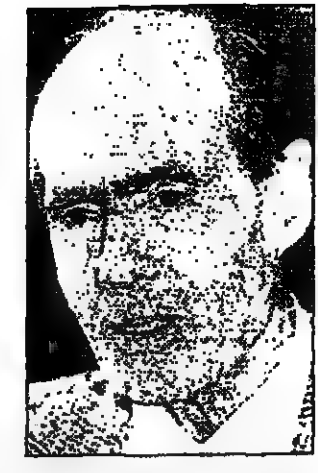
IN MARCH 1969 Leonard Cheshire (obituary, August 3) was asked by the Foreign Office to go to Biafra. The war had been raging for nearly two years with no end in sight, and Cheshire seemed well placed to win the confidence of both parties, having several homes on either side of the battle front.

Being a Catholic, as well as a military celebrity, he was felt likely to impress Colonel Ojukwu at a time when few British citizens were trusted in Biafra. In addition he was no stranger to flying in a hazardous environment.

He went via São Tomé, the ex-Portuguese island off the Niger Delta. The dangers ahead meant nothing to him: during a farewell party with priests and aid workers his only concern was whether he would be able to get the Wales-Ireland rugby match on the BBC World Service. On the day of the flight he caused panic by reporting that the Russians had put up SAM missiles in the Delta.

He relished the theatrical night descent on to a jungle track illuminated only seconds before the plane hit the ground. For nearly a week he explored means of compromise with Ojukwu and hopes of a settlement rose. Before he left for Lagos the Foreign Secretary, Michael Stewart, told the Commons that Harold Wilson did not rule out a digression to Biafra during his forthcoming visit to Nigeria.

In Lagos Cheshire pressed Wilson on this but the British Prime Minister felt it would



antagonise the Federal leader, Gowon. The war went on, and Cheshire believed his mission had failed. But it is at least arguable that he helped to end it.

As the plight of the Biafrans worsened towards the turn of the year, and world outrage mounted, Cheshire made a call for an international airlift which attracted almost unanimous support. It was widely dubbed the Cheshire airlift and brought world opinion to a head. This was surely one reason why Gowon suddenly decided in January that a military offensive could not be any more damaging than further famine; he attacked, and in a fortnight it was all over.

The episode strengthened Cheshire's conviction that armed forces are uniquely qualified to bring relief to the suffering, a theme with which he persisted, with widening acceptance, until his death.

Hugh Hanning

Sir Karl Parker

IN THE 1940s I took out a volume in the Bodleian for its title, *Vases* (obituary of Sir Karl Parker, July 28). It had belonged to James Gibbs, the architect, and consisted mainly of engravings. At the end were three drawings, one of which seemed to me to be a Dürer watercolour.

I went to the Ashmolean to look for evidence in the Print Room, and the keeper, Karl Parker, seeing a foreign body on his premises, had the curiosity to come looking over my shoulder and to enquire about my purposes.

I told him of my discovery, and we went together back to the Bodleian. When he had assured himself that it was indeed an unknown Dürer he took me out to tea at the Randolph, the only reward I ever got for my enrichment of his collections.

But some years later I asked



him to look at a picture I had bought, and remembering the Dürer he deigned to visit me in Leckford Road. He looked gravely at the picture for a few minutes.

Then he said: "I can't tell you who it's by, but I can tell you who it's not by" (and that, of course, was Claude).

J. H. Whitfield

Robert Liddell

YOUR appreciative and judicious obituary notice of Robert Liddell (July 27) omits to mention *Twin Spirits: The Novels of Emily and Anne Brontë*, which was published as recently as 1990. This

short, elegantly-written study argues, among other things, that Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* was intended partly as an answer to Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*.

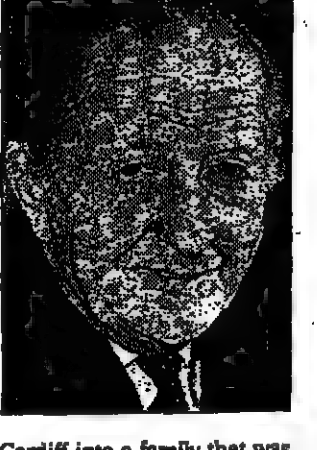
Donald Hames

ROBERT FREEMAN

Robert James Freeman, OBE, former chairman of J. R. Freeman & Son, cigar manufacturers, and founder of the Royal Marine Reserve, died on July 27 aged 85. He was born on January 31, 1907.

ROBERT Freeman's life embraced the two otherwise unrelated areas of the sea and cigars. He was born into his family cigar-making business, which was sold to Gallaher after the second world war. Simultaneously he was laying plans for the formation of a reserve force for the Royal Marines, which had hitherto not been able to draw on a volunteer force in time of emergency.

Freeman was born near



Cardiff into a family that was by then already into a third-generation of running one of the biggest domestic cigar businesses in the country. The J. R. Freeman factory, the biggest of its kind in Europe, is still a feature of the Cardiff skyline.

Freeman was educated at Marlborough and trained as a chartered accountant before joining the firm. He succeeded his father as chairman in 1936. At about that time the two men developed Manikin cigars, the first proprietary brand to be sold in Britain.

Manikin, a name which survives today, was aimed at the working-class smoker, under the slogan "Make it a Manikin weekend". It rapidly became the best-selling cigar in the country. When the

second world war broke out Freeman joined the Royal Marines, where he became a lieutenant-colonel. He was wounded in the D-Day landings but recovered to fight in Burma.

His life changed dramatically in the immediate post-war period. In 1947 he sold the family firm to Gallaher, the large tobacco manufacturer which was itself later taken over by American Tobacco. Gallaher then thought up the idea of Manikin cigars, bigger than Manikin but still aimed at the popular end of the market. Manikin continued to be made at Freeman's Cardiff factory.

While Freeman joined the board of Gallaher, his absorbing interest was in starting the Royal Marine Reserve, originally known as the Royal Marine Forces Voluntary Reserve. He was its first colonel, and he was appointed OBE for his creation. He left Gallaher in 1952 and used his freedom to launch another tobacco business — Siemssen Hunter. This was formed out of the merger of Hunter, an importer of Havana cigars, with a leaf tobacco manufacturer called Siemssen. Freeman later became president of the Tobacco Trade Benevolent Association.

He retired from this business in 1975 when he was 68. Four years later it was taken over by Britannia Arrow, a financial conglomerate, and broken up. But part of the business was bought by Freeman's son, Nicholas.

Freeman maintained his lifelong interest in the sea through yachting. His 70-foot ketch, *Solitaire*, was a regular part of the south coast yachting scene, and latterly he lived at Chichester in West Sussex. He was a member of the Royal Thames Yacht Club.

Freeman was married and twice widowed. Nicholas was one of two sons of Freeman's first marriage, to Joan Evans, who died in 1968. The other son, Christopher, suffered from Downs Syndrome and died.

In 1970 Freeman married Joan Clifford-Brown, who died in 1984.

Joseph Shuster, co-creator of the Superman comic strip hero, who never shared in the vast profits created by his character, died of congestive heart failure at his home in Los Angeles on June 30 aged 78. He was born in Toronto.

FASTER than a speeding bullet, Joe Shuster and his partner, Jerry Siegel, were fired from their jobs when they tried to get more money from the company that had bought their creation for a mere \$130. That was in 1947, when Superman reigned supreme among comic book heroes and had already made tens of millions of dollars for Detective Comics Inc. But the company, rather than give Shuster and Siegel their due, hired other writers and cartoonists to carry on the strip.

The inspiration for Superman had come from Douglas Fairbanks Sr., the silent film star who never let a stunt man stand in for him in his swashbuckling roles. He was an idol to Siegel and Shuster, who were both high school students in Cleveland at the time, and he gave Siegel an idea. Why not, he suggested to his artistic friend Joe, create a comic strip about a creature born on another planet, impervious to the laws of gravity and stronger than an army tank, who comes to earth as a baby, is reared in an orphanage and spends his life righting the wrongs of the world? Shuster sat down to draw. That was in 1933.

For the next five years, Shuster and Siegel tried unsuccessfully to sell their strip to various newspaper syndicates, but not one was interested.

And then, in 1938, Detective Comics agreed to publish the strip in a new magazine, *Action Comics*.

JOSEPH SHUSTER



The company promised to pay the young men \$10 per page, which meant that they would each get \$15 a week. More importantly, the company bought the copyright for a song.

"We were young kids," Shuster said later. "What did we know?"

Superman was an instant success. Before long he was appearing in newspaper comics, a radio show, animated cartoons, movie theatre serials, a Broadway musical, a novel and a stream of franchised goods.

Across the United States, the mid-

British overseas representation.

As head of finance in the Foreign Office at the time, Jones was given charge of the special administration office set up to organise the new combined diplomatic service which came into being in 1968. The job entailed long hours and exacting detail. Yet Jones was said to be so much a master of his brief that he never lost an hour of sleep through worry.

He was born in Liverpool, the son of an Anglesey-born businessman. Theophilus Jones. After Liverpool Institute High School he worked in local government and in 1934

went to work for the Public Assistance. On the outbreak of the second world war he became involved, on the financial side, with the evacuation of Britain's more vulnerable cities.

Jones then volunteered to join the RAF and was disappointed to be turned down after failing to meet the eyesight requirement. He managed a transfer to the Air Ministry, however, with the honorary rank of flight lieutenant, and was sent in 1943 to work in the Middle East finance office in Cairo. He was made honorary squadron leader in 1945 but a year later was transferred to the Foreign

Office.

Jones was sent to Washington at the start of 1950 to manage finance at the British Embassy under the then ambassador, Sir Oliver Franks. He returned to become deputy finance officer in the FO in 1953 and was made head of the department four years later. On the formation of the present FCO in 1968 he retired from Whitehall with the rank of councillor.

He learned Welsh in his spare time and was a leading figure in London Welsh Rugby Football Club.

Edgar Jones is survived by his wife Margaret and by one son and a daughter.

EDGAR JONES

Edgar Stafford Jones, CBE, a former head of the finance department at the Foreign Office, died on July 26 aged 83. He was born on June 11, 1909.

EDGAR Jones left school at 16 to work as a junior official in local government, but he rose to a senior position in Whitehall. He could claim to be, if not an architect of the modern Foreign and Commonwealth Office, then at least one of those who helped to put it together and make it work, following the 1964 Plowden report which recommended sweeping reform of

the audience of 12,000. Ticket prices for the event, which will be shown by the BBC, have not yet been fixed.

However, despite its name, the show will not be the final celebration. A month later, on November 30 at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, and for the benefit of the Combined Theatrical Charities Appeals Council, comes "Happy and Glorious". The show, according to the publicity, "will take a light-hearted look at some of the events of the past 40 years".

Provisionally booked to do so will be a cast of at least 40

celebrities of "Great Event" rank, plus the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Hammer Band and the National Youth Music Theatre.

Among the writers represented will be John Bejman, Noël Coward, Richard Stille and William Shakespeare. In 900 years, the audience will pay £20 to £100.

Martin Titchner, who has devised "Happy and Glorious", said: "Earls Court, as I understand it, is a musical event designed mainly for television."

Royal birthday, page 2

Cast of 5,000 celebrates royal anniversary

BY SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

TWO spectaculars are being planned for the autumn to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Queen's reign.

A cast of 5,000 has been recruited for "The Great Event — 40 Glorious Years", a pageant to be held at Earls Court on October 26. The show has been devised by Major Michael Parker, the royal pageant master himself, for the Royal Anniversary Trust to trace events and achievements during the reign.

Celebrities taking part will include Dame Vera Lynn, Sir Michael Hordern, Tommy

Steele, Julie Andrews, Michael Caine, Henry Cooper, Glenda Jackson, the 1953 Ashes team, Sinding Moss, Lord Hunt (of the Everest team), Sir Ian McKellen, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Sir Roger Bannister and the 1966 World Cup squad.

There will be music from Andrew Lloyd Webber and Anton Mosimann will create a Great Event dinner, although almost all the tables have already been booked to feed some of the glittering 5,000. The prime minister will join the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh among

celebrities of "Great Event" rank, plus the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Hammer Band and the National Youth Music Theatre.

Among the writers represented will be John Bejman, Noël Coward, Richard Stille and William Shakespeare. In 900 years, the audience will pay £20 to £100.

Martin Titchner, who has devised "Happy and Glorious", said: "Earls Court, as I understand it, is a musical event designed mainly for television."

University news

Warwick The following have received honorary degrees: Kathleen Adams, Secretary of the George Eliot Fellowship (MA); Carlos Fuentes, Mexican novelist (DLitt); Sir Anthony Gill, Chairman and Chief Executive of Lucas Industries (DSO); Lenny Henry, comedian (MA); Kyoshi Ino, Japanese mathematician (DSO); Recs Williams (Principal of Haverford College, Coventry (MA).

Royal visits

The Princess Royal will visit India and Bangladesh from September 10 to 20. Prince Edward will visit Wrocław, Poland, from September 18 to 20, in support of the London Missionary Society who are taking part in Wroclaw's Camans International Oratorio-Cantata festival.

August 4 ON THIS DAY 1830

King Charles X, who succeeded his brother, Louis XVIII, on the French throne in 1824, spent his youth according to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, in "scandalous dissipation". The first important member of royalty to escape from Paris after the fall of the Bastille in 1789, he spent several years in exile in Britain. He showed little inclination to become a constitutional monarch, saying once that he would rather reign like an English king.

EXIT CHARLES X.

(From the *Journal du Commerce* of Aug 1)

PARIS

Charles X left St. Cloud between two and three o'clock this morning; his suite was composed of 12 carriages; the greatest confusion prevailed at this moment at the Court. The regiment of the Royal Guards, which was left at St. Cloud to protect the retreat, was soon attacked by a multitude of armed citizens, who came from all the neighbouring communes, and a great number of Parisians, who arrived at daybreak, under the command of three pupils of the Polytechnic School. There as elsewhere the national party triumphed, throwing away their muskets, after taking the precaution to break their locks.

Charles X thought at first of taking refuge at Versailles, but he was not permitted to enter it. The people had taken up arms, and disarmed the Gardes du Corps. This evening it is asserted that he has fled to Trianon. Prince Polignac departed with the King. Madame de Polignac, passing through Versailles, was recognized and at first stopped, but then permitted to proceed on her journey. "But let his Excellency take care," they said to her.

The Dauphiness has left Dijon to join her family. It is confirmed that she was constantly averse to the measures that had once again ruined her family. The experience of the faults and the misfortunes of which she had so often been the victim, had enlightened her mind, which is equally judicious and firm. She alone foresaw the consequences of the coup d'état which she blamed with energy. If this is true, it justifies Napoleon's observation of this Princess: "she is the only man in the family."

The National Guard of Corbeil went yesterday to the Vouches, and took possession of 120,000lb of gunpowder, and immediately sent 9,000lb to Paris. The inhabitants of the environs of Paris emulate each other in enthusiasm and patriotism. There is not a hamlet in which the tricoloured flag has not been flying.

Yesterday at two o'clock, Charles X was walking melancholy and pensive with the Duchesse de Berri and the Marquis de B.M. "I have but one resource left," said Charles the Tenth: "it is, let the troops make a last effort." The Duchesse of Berri threw herself at his feet to dissuade him from this foolish idea.

INTERCEPTED LETTER OF GENERAL BORDENILLE TO THE DAUPHIN

Monseigneur, As I have received the letter of General Cressot, which announced to me the arrival of the King, I thought it my duty to place the troops under arms, and in a position to execute the orders of your Highness. If your Highness orders, I am ready to march where you may think proper. The spirit of the troops is still firm, though some discontent is already manifested in different regiments, which are almost without money. It would be very desirable that your Royal Highness should cause some advances to be made, particularly to the 4th regiment of infantry, to the gendarmes, the men of which have only a white pair of trousers, and no shoes.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Tradescant, gardener, Meopham, Kent, 1608; Edward Irving, founder of the Catholic Apostolic Church, Dumfries, 1792; Percy Bysshe Shelley, poet, Field Place, Horsham, Sussex, 1792; W.H. Hudson, writer and naturalist, near Buenos Aires, 1941; Knut Hamsun, novelist and poet, Nobel laureate 1920, Lam, Norway, 1859; Sir Harry Lauder, music hall entertainer, Edinburgh, 1870.

DEATHS: Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, killed at the battle of Evesham, 1265; William Cecil, Baron Burghley, statesman, London, 1598; John Bacon, sculptor, London, 1799; Hans Christian Andersen, Copenhagen, 1875; Pearl White, silent film star, 1938; Rodney "Cippy" Smith, evangelist, ca. 1947; Roy Thomson, 1st Baron Thomson of Fleet, newspaper proprietor, 1976.

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
SOCIAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

Pensions experts say that because women live longer they gain a double advantage under the current arrangements by being paid their pensions earlier and enjoying them for longer.



The Abbey also added its voice to calls on the government to reverse its decision to reimpose stamp duty from August 19. It argued that its plan for a tax credit to reduce the amount of income tax

Abbey suffers, page 15
Comment, page 19

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

The first bomb went off outside a printing shop in Bedford Street after the IRA had telephoned a warning to a local radio station. Police evacuated the area and the

overlooked after warning received

Hudson River

East River

Hudson Tunnel

World Trade Center

100 yards

Letter: second bomb explodes, no warning, 21 people injured

Mr Mates said: "We can't keep security on every single street in Northern Ireland. What we can do is try to protect those who are most at risk, but none of these people would have thought they were at risk."

The American basketball pros do not need the Olympics, but every track and field athlete does. It is the great stage of the Olympics that makes athletics spe-

SIMON BARNES

Solution to Puzzle No 18,987

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12 Food item, say, to be included in
14 Terrible lies about the present
crowd's winter transport (10).
16 Guide for doctor taking a horse
to the sultanate (8).
18 Cook's assistant bends to take out
the stones (8).
19 Choose an entrance, say, for a
bullfighter (7).
22 Law covering new guns (6).
24 Weapons found in a mail ship
(4).

Concise Crossword, page 9
Life & Times section

ROADWATCH

AA Reservation is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

LONDON
Yesterday: Temp: max 8am to 6pm, 22° (72°), min 6pm to 6am, 16° (61°). Humidity: 51 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, trace.
Sun: 54hr to 6pm, 7.6hr. Bar, mean sea level 6pm, 1,009.2 millibars, rising.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Weybourne, Norfolk, 24C (75F); lowest day max: Seale Ness, Shetland, 13C (55F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highland, 0.15in; highest sunshine: Norwich, 8.7hr.

TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lifted at the following times:

* denotes figures are latest available

Norway Kr	11.75	10.95	S W Scotland	720
Portugal Esc	252.50	234.50	W Central Scotland	721
South Africa Rd	6.20	5.50	Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
Spain Ptas	187.75	174.75	E Central Scotland	723
Sweden Kr	10.91	10.11	Grampian & E Highlands	724
Switzerland Fr	2.05	2.48	N W Scotland	725
Turkey Lira	14100.0	13100.0	Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
USA \$	2.015	1.885		

KEEP PACE WITH THE





KEEP PACE WITH THE WORLD

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BUSINESS 15-20
LEGAL TIMES 21-23

BUSINESS TIMES

TUESDAY AUGUST 4 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

SPORT
24-28

Housing market slump causes profits to fall for first time since listing three years ago

Abbey National suffers from mortgage debts

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

A RISING tide of mortgage arrears and the slump in the housing market cut pre-tax profits at Abbey National, the savings bank, by £38 million to £270 million, the first fall it has suffered since it came to the stock market three years ago.

The downturn was caused by a 138 per cent jump in bad debt provisions to £138 million, as Abbey struggled against arrears and repossession. Peter Birch, the chief executive, said Abbey now owns more than 9,600 homes, up from 7,100 a year ago, and equivalent to a small town. The fall in house prices has forced Abbey to provide an average of £14,500 against each.

Abbey said the number of borrowers with arrears of more than six months had fallen to 16,400 from a peak

of 20,700 a year ago. The group said, however, that it has only completed eight of its new mortgage-to-rent schemes in the half year, but that the number will rise to 20 by the end of the month.

Despite the fall, the group increased its interim dividend 9 per cent to 3.8p. Mr Birch said Abbey was still committed to providing shareholders with real dividend growth.

Dr John Wrigglesworth, an analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said he was confident the group would ride out the problems. "I have no worries about the future. The dividend is well covered and Abbey is an inherently reliable cash generating machine," he said.

Mr Birch said the housing market was failing to improve, due to lack of confidence, and would only recover very slowly. He also issued a stark warning



Credit in hand: Sir Christopher Tugendhat yesterday, who proposes a tax credit scheme to help the market

Tax handouts plea to help sell homes

By Lindsay Cook, Money Editor

A SCHEME to stop house prices falling further by giving handouts of up to £10,000 to home owners whose homes are worth less than they paid for them has been outlined by the second-largest mortgage lender, Abbey National, in its proposal for a tax credit scheme to Norman Lamont and hopes that it will stimulate discussion on ways in which the housing market can be helped.

The Treasury did not dismiss it out of hand. Last night, a Treasury official said: "The Chancellor has only just received the proposal. He will be looking at it and considering it over the next few days."

The scheme, the brainchild of Sir Christopher Tugendhat, Abbey's chairman, would allow home owners to offset the losses from the sale of a house against income tax, so long as they used the proceeds to buy

another property. An independent valuation would be needed to make sure that people did not have their properties undervalued to get the money.

The tax credit would reduce the amount of income tax owed by the home owners, Sir Christopher said, and where the loss was greater than the tax bill for the year, the difference would be paid by cheque by the Inland Revenue.

Earlier this year, the Council of Mortgage Lenders estimated that approximately 375,000 mortgages were in negative equity by an average of £2,662. Using these figures the Abbey estimated that its scheme would cost £250 million in a full year. However, the Council of Mortgage Lenders has revised its figures and now says that about a million home owners have homes worth less than their mortgages.

Plan in doubt, page 1
Comment, page 19

BBA enjoys first rise in two years

By Jonathan Prynn

BBA, the automotive, industrial and aviation components and services group, has achieved its first profit increase since the first half of 1990, despite continuing gloom in most of its markets.

The 26 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £33 million for the six months to end-June was the reward for a two-year process of cost reduction and restructuring. The bottom line also benefited from a 33 per cent cut in the interest bill, mainly due to lower interest rates in America, where the company has much of its borrowings.

Earnings per share rose 14 per cent to 5p and the interim dividend is held at 2.25p.

Most of the improvement came from the automotive division, where the company's specialised products have protected it from the general recession in the industry. Combined with deep reductions in the cost base, this allowed the division to increase profits before exceptional items by 30 per cent to £20.4 million. Operating profits from the industrial division fell from £20 million to £18 million; aviation profits rose slightly to £5.6 million. The overall group operating margin before exceptional costs rose from 6.8 to 7.1 per cent.

Dr John White, managing director, said he remained optimistic for the future but was "loathe to anticipate the recovery and articulate prematurely any new dawn in case it proves to false". He also expressed what he called "the classic industrialist's whinge" when he described the level of interest rates as "wholly unhelpful". BBA is particularly keen to see recovery in Britain, enabling it to cut its high tax burden by offsetting advance corporation tax against earnings.

The shares rose 8p to 133p as confidence grew that BBA would hold its full-year dividend. Last year's dividend was not fully covered by earnings.

Tempus, page 16

German output weakens

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

FURTHER signs of weakening in the German economy sent shares to their lowest since January on the Frankfurt stock exchange. Industrial production in western Germany fell 2.1 per cent between May and June, having edged down 0.1 per cent in May, on revised figures.

June output was 4.5 per cent down on the same month a year ago, when the western German economy was particularly buoyant after unification. In the latest two months, however, industrial output was 1.5 per cent lower than in the previous two, suggesting a continuing slowdown. The German economic ministry blamed early holidays for the fall in June.

The disappointing figures, which sent the main share index down 1.5 per cent, also hit the mark, which lost ground modestly against both

the dollar and sterling. This eased pressure on the pound, still trading near the bottom of its ERM range.

The German chemical industry association, echoing last week's gloomy trading news from ICI, said business had been worse than expected in the second quarter, with weak prices offsetting rising demand in some sectors to leave turnover little changed.

The volume of chemical output still rose by 3 per cent over the half year but this rate is expected to halve for the year as a whole, with no sign of upturn in the domestic economy and little help from recovery in America.

Company insolvencies in Germany rose 2.7 per cent on a year earlier in May, though there were fewer personal bankruptcies.

The latest economic signals from America were again

mixed. The National Association of Purchasing Managers' index, regarded as a guide to industry orders and confidence, recovered from 52.8 to 54.2 per cent in July. This indicates a consolidation of recovery since figures above 50 per cent suggest the economy is expanding.

But the commerce department indicated that construction spending had fallen by 1.5 per cent between May and June, despite a recovery in the housing sector, after small rises the previous two months.

In Britain, the Institute of Purchasing and Supply, whose survey-based index is similar to the American purchasing managers', said recovery in manufacturing output appeared to have reversed in July and new orders had fallen sharply.

Comment, page 19

Banks support financial restructure at Lep Group

By Michael Tate, City Editor

LEP Group, the freight forwarding to security services group, has secured bank support for a financial reconstruction after the company revealed attributable losses of £235.1 million for 1991, current net borrowings of £507.8 million and negative shareholders' funds of £108.8 million at December 31.

The company's 34 banks have agreed to swap £180 million of their debt for equity, to roll up interest payments of £145.7 million over three years, to provide the company with new working capital and to put a further £82 million of banking facilities on a committed basis. This will reduce debt to a serviceable level, eliminate the deficit of shareholders' funds and put a large proportion of the bank facilities on a longer term basis. Without it, the company says it cannot continue trading.

One of the banks' condi-



James: "absolute maze"

tion plan. He said: "For six solid months, I have been wholly and solely responsible for seeing the financial reconstruction through. It was an absolute maze—as complex as any I have done."

Mr James declined to comment on reports of pending legal action, saying it was "natural that the board will want to consider its position with regard to former directors and officers of the company". John Read, who resigned as chairman and chief executive at the end of last year, after nine years, is pursuing a £1.7 million claim against the company.

The banks will subscribe 21p a share for the new shares, compared with the 64p ruling in the stock market yesterday. Existing shareholders are offered 17 new shares for every three held at the same price, but the board does not envisage many takers. Lep shareholders will meet on August 24 to vote on the package.

Hollywood takes on Magic Johnson

From Philip Robinson in New York

HOLLYWOOD is bracing itself for its first big test in the competition for summer viewing — can its sequels, sex and comedy, which have generated the second-best box-office receipts on record, beat the Barcelona Olympics?

The period from June to September, when studios take almost half their profits, is crucial. This year, a strong start has been made, with an unusual combination of films starring women.

Whoopi Goldberg's *Sister Act*, from Walt Disney, has destroyed the myth that only male actors have box office magnetism during the summer. Michelle Pfeiffer's *Calaveras*, in *Ratman Returns*, proved that whip-wielding women in black latex have wide appeal. Sigourney Weaver, in *Aliens 3*, is convincingly

feminine, despite the Sinead O'Connor hair style.

The three pictures have taken \$287 million so far. Among films with male stars, only Mel Gibson's *Lethal Weapon 3* and Harrison Ford's *Patriot Games* have topped \$70 million. Analysts are nervous of a repeat of last year, when a strong June and July dissolved into a run of flops that lasted until Christmas.

Clint Eastwood reappears in a Warner Brothers western morality tale called *Unforgiven*; Sony produces Brigit Fonda in *Single White Female*, about a New York mismatch of room-mates, and Madonna with Geena Davis in *A League of Their Own*, about a female baseball team. Fox will launch *Buff, the Vampire Slayer*, starring Luke Perry, the teen dream of Beverly Hills. Howard Rosenberg, the film's producer, says of his target audience of 12-year-old girls

"Put Luke Perry in and all the marketing problems are over."

Eddie Murphy, the comedian, is attempting to relaunch his flagging career in *Boomerang*, billed as a nuclear explosion between the sexes. It has taken \$40 million in its first two weeks.

According to Art Murphy, who keeps the box office figures for *Variety*, the entertainment bible, this summer's takings should hit \$1.85 billion to \$1.9 billion. That would be around \$140 million shy of the 1989 record.

Much will depend on Jack Nicholson and Ellen Barkin in *Far's Man Trouble*, and Meryl Streep and Goldie Hawn in the black comedy, *Death Becomes Her*.

They will be up against the American basketball dream team of Larry Bird, Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan, whose salaries are in line with those of Hollywood stars anyway.

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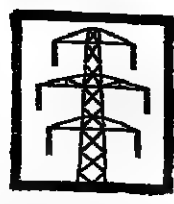
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TODAY IN BUSINESS

TRADE-OFF



Wolfgang Münchau examines how Europeans are trying to establish an industrial policy compatible with free markets
Page 19

ENTRENCHED

Bankers have agreed to financial reconstruction for Trencherwood after further losses from the housebuilder
Page 17

HIGH-TECH



English judges are advised to make greater use of new technology after the Blue Arrow trial
Page 17

LONG HAUL

Transport Development Group is weathering the recession but sees no improvement
Tempus, page 16

LAW TIMES



The best unbiased financial advice often comes from solicitors says Patrick Stevens
Page 20

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9265 (same)
German mark 2.8484 (+0.0058)
Exchange index 92.4 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 1814.8 (+11.0)
FT-SE 100 2420.2 (+20.6)
New York Dow Jones 3392.70 (-1.08)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 15709.45 (-200.83)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank 10%-10.5%
3-month eligible bills: 9%-9.5%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 5.5%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.18-3.17%
30-year bonds: 10%-10.5%

CURRENCY

London: New York:
£: \$1.9247 £: \$1.9240
£: DM2.8447 £: DM1.4774
£: Sfr2.5406 £: Sfr1.3194
£: FF9.5992 £: FF4.9680
£: Yen245.00 £: Yen127.27
£: Index: 92.4 £: Index: 80.3
ECU: £0.718202 SDR: £0.752441
£: ECU1.392355 £: SDR1.329007
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$357.50 PM \$354.05
Close \$353.30-353.80
£183.50-184.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$20.35/bbl (\$20.40)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.3 June (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

RAPID

BBA stands out in recession crowd

AS THE third year of economic gloom drags on in Britain, company results are beginning to mark out the management men from the boys. BBA is an early case in point. While seeing no real general upturn, the company has engineered a 7 per cent rise in operating profits and, with the help of lower American interest rates, a 26 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, the first increase in two years.

The secret behind the turnaround is not hard to discover. The company restructured early in the recession and has continued to invest heavily in a strong portfolio of products, many world or European market leaders. It has also timed its acquisitions well, the latest example being the purchase of a 68 per cent share in Butler Aviation International, making BBA the largest supplier of aircraft services at the smaller end of the market in America. A £79 million rights issue in May last year also came at the right moment, giving the company financial breathing space at a time when a healthy, flexible balance sheet has never been more important.

The group's many operating companies supplying the automotive, industrial and aviation markets around the world have had a mixed year but the broad picture and short-term outlook remain gloomy. The interim dividend has been held at 2.25p, giving the company an opportunity to increase its comfortably slim cover.

A healthy recovery in full-year profits to perhaps £65 million seems inevitable. More importantly, BBA should be able to hold the dividend, with the resulting



BBA ahead: John White, managing director (left) and Peter Clappison, finance chief

7.5 per cent yield giving the shares, 5p higher at 133p yesterday, strong support. This is one management team worth sticking with through the thick and thin of the recession.

TDG

TRANSPORT Development Group is clearly tiring of its role as one of the pointers to the economic health of the nation and is refusing to predict any upturn in the near future. As Sir James Duncan, the retiring chairman, rightly says, there have been too many false dawns.

Interim figures from TDG show the group continuing to weather the effects of the

recession in profit terms by trimming back where necessary. TDG is also maintaining a cautious line on dividends, pegging the interim payment at 3p.

A slight increase in pre-tax profits, from £16.5 million to £16.8 million, reflects lower interest payments. Gearing is down to a more comfortable 15.6 per cent before the proposed sale of the remaining American operation. The company hopes to achieve that sale by the year-end and within the £15 million loss provision set up in the last accounts.

In Britain, operating profits rose 10 per cent to £14.2 million, helped by earlier cost-cutting. But in France

the truckers' blockade this summer was the last straw for an already battered transport industry and the company lost £537,000 against £1.85 million of profits last year, prompting the importation of a new chief executive. The blockade cost TDG at least £250,000, some of this falling into the second half.

TDG's shares have come back even harder than the rest of the market since the timely sale of Proventus of Sweden's 20 per cent stake in April. The shares marked the interim with a 9p gain to 225p. Assuming £40 million for the full year, they sell on about 12.5 times future earnings. The group's resilience makes them a good hold, but

with little prospect of a dividend increase this year, the price looks high enough.

Lep Group

YEARS of providing the barest information necessary to comply with legal requirements gave way to a deluge of data from Lep Group yesterday, none of it flattering to the previous management. The catalogue of disasters to have beset this once successful and respected freight forwarding group is stunning in its scope and size.

That it even has a chance of surviving is remarkable enough, given the sums needed to refinance the balance sheet, and a tribute to the respect paid David James's skills as a company doctor.

Seen in the most favourable light, Lep over-stretched in the 1980s boom years only to stumble from one crisis to another in its attempts to extricate itself from increasing demands for capital from its new businesses in the past few years.

Lep's future is now back in the hands of shareholders, who will vote on the reconstruction this month. Without their approval the company is bust. With it, Lep will emerge with not just two core businesses, freight forwarding and security services, and one of the best company doctors in the business. It will also be 85 per cent owned by the banks, which evidently believe the reconstruction remains their best chance of getting their money back.

They will be prepared for a long wait, but there is no good reason why shareholders should wait with them, let alone subscribe for the new shares on offer.

BA deal in America attacked by rival

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

DELTA Airlines last night opened the American industry's attack on the proposed alliance between British Airways and USAir, sailing for US aviation regulators to declare the deal illegal because it would give BA effective control of an American airline.

Delta says also that any new deal between the two should not be approved without it being linked to a total re-write of the US-UK bilateral flying agreements which it regards as the world's most restrictive. The airline's opposition comes amid reports of a proposal to make the bankrupt Trans World Airlines more attractive to foreign investors. USAir is believed to have had talks with TWA about buying its European operations, a move which would fit the strategy of building a global airline which BA's chairman Lord King outlined when announcing his USAir deal last month.

Under the current proposal BA will invest \$750 million for a 44 per cent equity stake and 21 per cent of the votes in USAir. But Ronald Allen, Delta chairman and chief executive, said: "Under this agreement, British Airways will exercise control over virtually every significant business activity of USAir."

He said the transport department should rule the deal illegal and added: "Even if BA control of USAir were eliminated, the Department of Transportation is obligated to protect US interests by requiring, as a precondition to allow the transaction, a revised US-UK aviation agreement."

Aviva Petroleum seeks \$6.5m in restructuring

BY MARTIN BARROW

AVIVA Petroleum, the troubled American oil and gas explorer listed in London, announced the terms of a \$6.5 million rights issue that may leave a senior management group led by Ron Suttill, chief executive, with 41 per cent of the enlarged equity.

The rights issue is the second stage of a detailed restructuring of the company, the first part of which was announced in June, and included the sale of Aviva Canada, a rescheduling of bank debt and the conversion of interest owed on a loan from the Royal Bank of Scotland into equity.

Shareholders were warned that if the two-for-one share issue at 27p a share is not approved, the company will face severe cash constraints. Existing shares fell 6p to 30p.

Mr Suttill and fellow directors and managers have agreed to underwrite \$4 million of the issue. Gulf USA Corporation, a main shareholder, has agreed to subscribe for \$1.5 million of new equity, and the Royal Bank of Scotland has agreed to take up its rights in full. The company intends to seek a listing in America.

Mr Suttill said: "Aviva's management are tangibly demonstrating their long-standing commitment to the future of the company and in particular to the profitable development of the Colombian properties." Gross production from Colombian assets currently exceeds 3,700 barrels of oil per day. Colombian cash flow is expected to boost revenues and earnings in the latter part of this year.

Govett seeks trust firm in southern America

GOVETT, the Anglo-American fund management and corporate finance group, is intensifying its acquisition hunt for a trust company in the southern states of America to broaden its financial activities. Ian Whitehead, the group's chief financial officer, said the group had laid the groundwork for the acquisition and would find a suitable candidate in the second half of the year.

During the first half, Govett lifted pre-tax profits 14 per cent to \$29.7 million, as its assets under management rose \$600 million to \$5.8 billion. The group is raising the half-time dividend 12 per cent to 9.5 cents. Govett has \$77 million in net cash and short-term investments. The figures were boosted by another strong performance at London Pacific, the American annuities business that was founded by Govett in 1989. Profits there rose 38 per cent to \$14.5 million, while its assets under management are now worth more than \$600 million.

Power pay package

WYNFORD Evans, chairman of South Wales Electricity, saw his total pay package rise from £121,000 to £193,000 in the year to the end of March, according to the accounts. Performance-related payments accounted for £31,000 against £24,000 last time. A spokesman said the rise reflected a salary award of £155,000 a year, granted in December 1990, at the time of privatisation. Last month, he was awarded a rise of 6.4 per cent to £165,000.

Clarke at £168,000

CLARKE Foods, which became Britain's second-biggest ice cream manufacturer when it bought Lyons Maid in March, reported pre-tax profits of £168,000 for the six months to May 2. The USM-owned company said the figure, achieved on turnover of £10.4 million, is not directly comparable with the same period last time when it made a profit of £364,000 on sales of £1.8 million. The interim dividend has been held at 0.75p.

Accounts qualified

NOVALAL, the struggling USM tree clone company, has had its accounts heavily qualified by its auditors because of its uncertain financial viability. The shares fell 2p to 4 1/2p on a £3.5 million pre-tax loss for the 17 months to end-December, against a £1.4 million deficit in the eight months to end-July 1990. With the failure to secure any big hardwood propagation contracts during the period, Novalal is banking on micropropagation projects in the Mediterranean.

Lilleshall builds profits

ACQUISITIONS helped Lilleshall, the building products, plastics and engineering group, lift taxable profits from £1.25 million to £1.83 million in the six months to end-June. However, John Leek, chairman, gave warning that trading conditions remained difficult. Earnings rose from 4.5p a share to 5.6p. The interim dividend is up from 1.5p a share to 1.6p. Turnover was £25.5 million (£16.0 million) and operating profits rose from £88,000 to £1.83 million.

BET issue finely poised

BET, the business services group, and its financial advisers today enter a nervous three-day period that will determine the result of the company's £201 million rights issue. The new shares are on offer at 110p and have been hit by the general fall in the market since the announcement of the issue when they were changing hands at 133p. Analysts believe that even a 3p recovery between today and Wednesday's close will allow Baring, the underwriter, to get the bulk of the shares away.

Benson paying again

BENSON Group, the fast-growing specialised engineer, has returned to the dividend list for the first time since January 1990 with a 0.1p payment for the year to the end of May. After pre-tax profits increased from £142,000 to £915,000. The group made five separate acquisitions during the year and Richard Phillips, the chairman, said development both organically and by acquisition, would continue. Most businesses within the group had firm order books, he said.

BRITISH FUNDS

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Builder in hands of banks after huge loss

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

FURTHER huge losses have left Trencherwood, a Berkshire housebuilding group, with a deficiency of assets, an inability to pay a dividend, and in the hands of its bankers.

John Norgate, the chairman, said the group's main bankers had agreed to a financial reconstruction involving an exchange of debt for equity. He gave warning, however, that the arrangement was subject to certain

pre-conditions and that the precise details have still to be finalised.

Losses for the year to last October amounted to £7.7 million, lifting the total deficit for the past two years to £67 million. They comprised a £7.8 million operating loss and provisions of £29.9 million, relating to a further write-down of land holdings and work-in-progress, and £6.6 million of bad debts against venture partners.

There was a £12.5 million deficiency of net assets, compared with net assets of £1.8 million a year previously. Bank borrowings have risen from £40.5 million to £45 million, with a further £20.2 million in off-balance sheet arrangements.

Mr Norgate said the financial position was "fairly unsatisfactory", the aim of the reconstruction was to secure medium-term funding. The proposals involved creating medium-term facilities finally repayable by the end of 1997, he said. Details would be available soon.

Trencherwood continues to withdraw from joint venture activities and to wind down its involvement in commercial property development.

The immediate outlook remains bleak, there has been a further deterioration in the group's markets so far in 1992. "It is inevitable that trading volumes will be substantially lower for 1992 than those we achieved in 1991," Mr Norgate said.

He emphasised, however, that the group was constructing no new buildings, not yet or pre-sold, and was not exposed to the over-supply problem facing some areas.

Two new developments have been launched in the group's home territory, and Mr Norgate believes they will "substantially underpin the group's development programme over the next few years". Trencherwood sold 306 houses during the year, compared with 328 the previous year. The loss for the residential division was £3.6 million, against £5.1 million. Write-downs in land, work in progress and provisions for joint venture losses totalled £11.5 million, against £12.4 million.

Write-downs against the commercial division's assets amounted to £6.1 million, with joint venture provisions totalling another £66 million. Trencherwood shares, once valued at 443p, lost unchanged at 7p.

Lancaster plans drive back to stock market

By MARTIN BARROW



On the road: Nicholas Lancaster is to join the board of and take a stake in Malaya, the motor group

NICHOLAS Lancaster, the motor dealer, is planning a return to the stock market more than three years after his previous vehicle was taken private by Jardine Matheson, the international trading house.

Mr Lancaster, formerly managing director of Lancaster, which went public only four months before the stock market crash in October 1987, is joining the board of Malaya Group, subscribing for £1.5 million in new shares and underwriting the bulk of a £1.7 million rights issue.

Malaya, an ailing Sussex motor group, graduated from the now defunct Third Market to the Unlisted Securities Market but incurred pre-tax losses of almost £500,000 in each of the past two financial years.

The company is presently controlled by Colin Gilttrap, the New Zealand businessman, whose holding of ordinary and preference shares gives him effective control over 81 per cent of the existing equity. This is expected to fall to about 21 per cent.

After the share subscription, Lancaster Associates, which represents Mr Lancaster's interest, will control at

least 54 per cent of Malaya's share capital but may hold up to 69 per cent as a result of the underwriting agreement. The Takeover Panel has waived an obligation to make a bid for outstanding shares.

Mr Lancaster plans to develop Malaya into a multi-franchise dealer, selling a high proportion of used vehicles. He believes the motor sector has entered a period of radical restructuring, a process precipitated by the recession, and expects to be well placed to benefit from these changes.

Lancaster, which was founded by his father, was floated on the stock market valued at £28 million with Matheson, part of the Jardine Matheson group, retaining 60 per cent.

Disenchantment with the performance of the company's shares, which constantly traded at below the issue price of 165p, and concern about future trading prospects as recession loomed, prompted Matheson to buy the minority in a £31.6 million deal in March 1990. Mr Lancaster remained as chief executive of Jardine International Motor Holdings until last March.

Reckitt sale results in \$100m loss

RECKITT & Colman, the food and household products group, has taken a \$100 million loss on the sale of its American spice and seasoning business, Durkee-French, to the Australian Burns Philp group for \$75.1 million.

The loss will show below the line as an extraordinary item in the interim figures, due next month. Reckitt took a book loss of almost \$25 million on the sale. Other write-downs and the cost of 600 redundancies brought the total to \$82 million.

Coats disposals

Coats Vycella, the textiles group, has sold Tootal's Badk interests to the Hong Kong-based Cba group. Coats said it had also completed the sale of two Glasgow properties. The disposals realised £26 million.

Receivers called in

Chequer Group, the pub and hotel refuelling, has called in the receivers. The shares were suspended on July 16. Vivian Barstow and the Jacob of Robson Rhodes, the accountant, are appointed joint administrative receivers to Chequer Europe, Hemmingford Investments, International Hotel Interiors and Platonoff & Harris. Other companies continue to trade.

Reflex in the red

Reflex Investments, the Irish software company, made a pre-tax loss of £12.4 million (£2.2 million), after exceptional charges of £11.9 million due to a write-down of stocks, development costs and restructuring costs. There is no dividend payment (£12.2325p).

SFO drops second Blue Arrow case

By A CORRESPONDENT

FORMAL not guilty verdicts were recorded at the Old Bailey yesterday in the cases of four City figures charged with conspiracy to defraud in connection with the Blue Arrow rights issue in 1987.

Nicholas Purnell QC, prosecuting, told the court that the Serious Fraud Office had decided it would "not be in the public interest" to offer evidence against Charles Villiers, former County NatWest chairman; Elizabeth Brimelow, County's former compliance director; Paul Smallwood, a former equities director with UBS Phillips & Drew; and Tim Brown, another former P&D equities director. The

decision had been taken after last month's quashing by the Court of Appeal of conspiracy convictions against four other City financial advisers involved in the £837 million Blue Arrow cash call. Their trial lasted more than a year and cost an estimated £40 million.

Mr Justice Brook, who granted Mr Villiers and his co-defendants their costs, said that if the trials had gone ahead, there would have been ten hearings, one lasting up to ten weeks and the second about three months.

English judges had to learn new techniques, particularly computer skills, if they were to

cope with the difficulties of "very large and complex" criminal trials, he said. US judges saved time and money by using lap-top computers.

The judge said: "I believe there is now a considerable public interest in the search for answers to the problems which are bedevilling these very large criminal trials."

The judge in such proceedings bore a "very heavy" management responsibility, comparable to that of the management of a complex business project worth millions of pounds.

To help him with the "enormous intellectual and physical burden" of summing up after

the two trials he thought he would have to preside over, the Lord Chancellor's department had planned to provide him with an assistant skilled in computers.

"It is, in my view, essential that the trial judge is provided with all the help he reasonably needs, including training in computer skills and trial management skills, if necessary," he said.

Mr Justice Brook said he would have made use in court of a lap-top computer, for the first time in a major criminal trial in Britain. It would have provided an edited transcript within 20 seconds of a witness's words being spoken.

Lights market confronts a burning issue of duty

By COLIN CAMPBELL



Smokers: igniting figures

BRITAIN is alight with matches and lighters. The 1992 Lights Report from Bryant & May says that the total value of the lights markets was more than £203 million in 1991, up from £183 million a year earlier.

Since matches and cigarette lighters are due to move into a duty-free environment next January, the outlook for the multi-million pound industry is illuminating.

The Lights Report says that 173.2 billion lights were struck in 1991, compared with a total of 172.9 billion in 1990. Of the 1991 figure, 112.7 billion (111.5 billion were associated with smoking, and 60.5 billion (61.4 billion) with domestic usage. David Wheeler,

managing director of Bryant & May, suggests that when duty is removed, there will be a pronounced fall in lighter prices. How retailers and wholesalers react to this will determine whether the sector continues to develop, or whether it degenerates into a low-margin commodity business that does not justify shelf space, he says.

Duty accounts for about 50p on lighters, compared with just over 4p for a standard box of matches, so the prices of disposable and semi-disposable cigarette lighters might, possibly, fall dramatically.

There is a potential danger, Mr Wheeler suggests, that some overseas manufacturers will try to "dump" disposables, sometimes of dubious quality and safety standards, at prices

provoking "three for £1" retail offers. Lights Report says that trading standards officers are concerned about safety. Bryant & May stopped selling adjustable-flame lighters some years ago and believes they should be banned as potentially hazardous.

Trading standards officers are discussing the possibility of warning labels on lighters, a practice that has already been introduced in America and Japan. Lights Report suggests that if such measures are to be averted here, European standards for lighters should be tightened.

Nobody will smoke more or light the gas more often because lighters and matches are cheaper. But the balance of sales between matches and disposable lighters will change, the report notes.

Eggar approves two gas power stations

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PRESSURE on the government to block the building of gas-fired power stations to avoid a massive surplus of capacity and ease privatisation of the coal industry has been shouldered aside by Tim Eggar, the energy minister.

Mr Eggar has given consent for two gas-fired power stations despite a pre-election hint by John Wakeham, his forerunner, that the government might change course.

The decision is a bitter disappointment to British Coal. Neil Clarke, the chairman, is in talks over the size of future coal sales to generating

companies. He has given a warning that gas plants could cut demand for coal by a third within a few years.

Acknowledging Mr Wakeham's remarks, Mr Eggar said the government would keep the position under review. However, his primary concern was with "the implications of the policy may have for the development of competition in electricity generation." The decision is a bitter disappointment to British Coal. Neil Clarke, the chairman, is in talks over the size of future coal sales to generating

One of the plants approved, a 1,100 megawatt station at Stallingborough, Humberside, has been put forward by Imvran Voina Oy (IVO), the Finnish state power company. The other, planned by Scottish Power, is 500 megawatt station at Shoreham, West Sussex. Scottish Power said the Shoreham plant was "on hold" because gas was not available at prices that would make it economic.

IVO Energy, IVO's British arm, hopes to begin building the Humberside plant as soon as completion of the coal contract talks ended power market uncertainty.

□ Dewe Rogerson, the communications agency, has been chosen to advise the trade and industry department and British Coal on marketing and communications during the forthcoming sale of the corporation.

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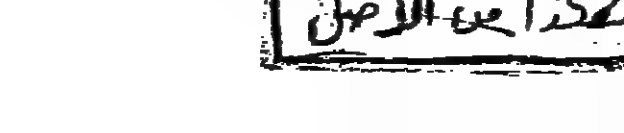


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EUROPEAN VIEW

Europeans struggle to develop common language on industry

A middle course ought to be steered between picking winners and dogmatic rejection of industrial policy, says Wolfgang Münchau

The trouble with European industrial policy is not only that Europeans disagree over its merits, but also that they interpret the term in completely different ways.

This shows that the big problem for Europeans is not so much that they do not understand one another (which can have its advantages) but that they think they understand one another when in fact they do not. Industrial policy is just one such expression. Another is federalism, which some would say implies "centralisation", moving the centre of gravity of power towards Brussels, while others interpret it as a system designed to ensure "decentralisation".

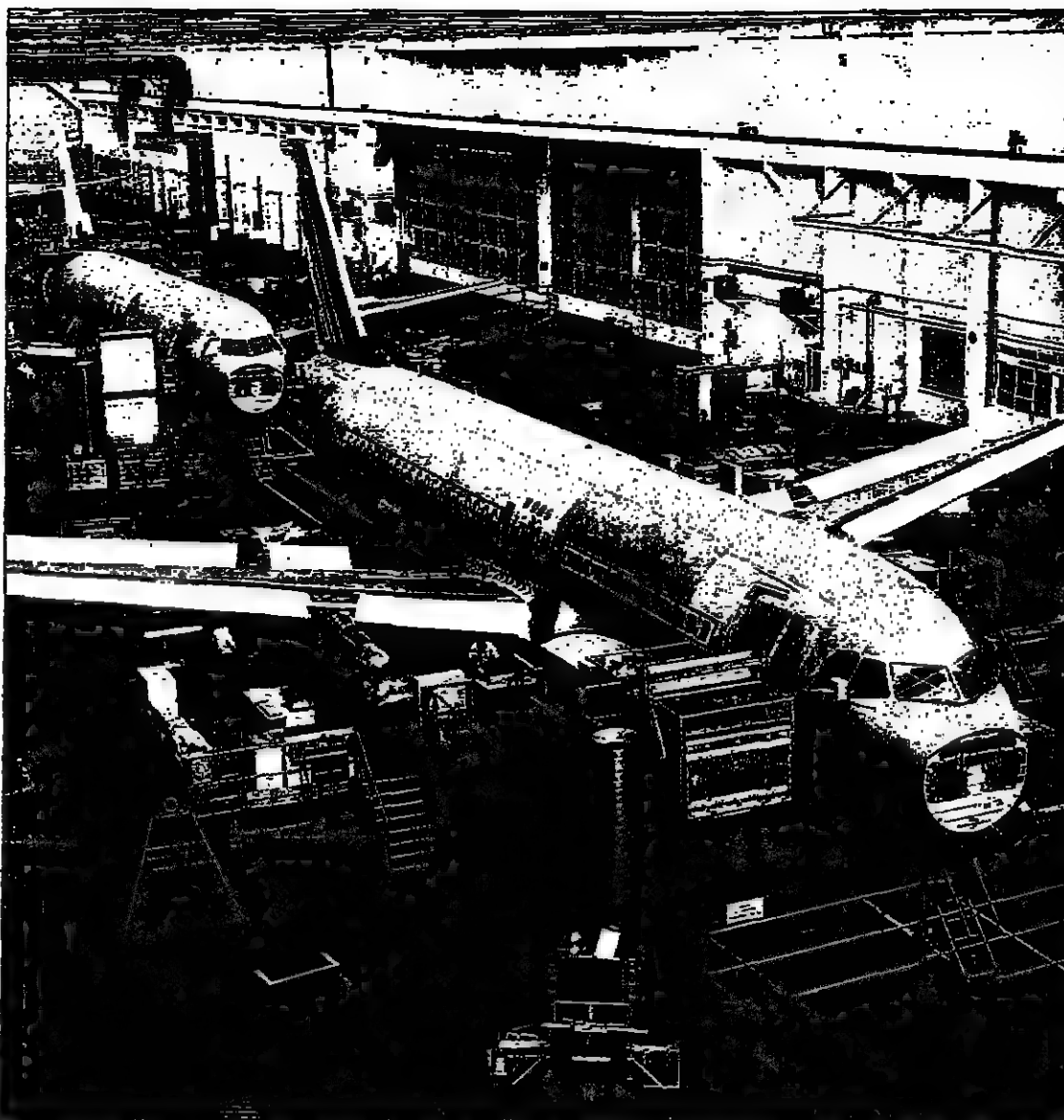
The trouble with industrial policy is that it is not easy to replace it with a less ambiguous expression. Some people take industrial policy to be synonymous with socialism, or a euphemism for pouring good money after bad; others regard it as a legitimate method of improving international competitiveness. Linguistics aside, there is a genuine political disagreement about industrial policy. In particular, if one talks about the industrial policy of an increasingly federal Europe, one can expect political disagreements to become somewhat intense.

Industrial policy has a bad track record. Old-style industrial policy, which essentially consisted of "picking winners" through subsidies or even outright state ownership, might have been full of good intentions but proved an economic failure.

Yet economic liberalism in its most dogmatic version — the one that rejects industrial policy in principle on the ground that free markets know better in all circumstances — has not been a resounding success, either. The difference between the two extremes is that in the first case governments cause long-term damage; in the second, they watch it happen and do nothing about it.

It is legitimate to ask whether an industrial policy that is compatible with the principles of free-market economics is possible. Moreover, as Europe is moving towards a single market, it is worth considering to what extent such a policy should be pursued at a European level.

This is the subject of a book by Martin Bangemann, Germany's senior European commissioner in charge of the internal market. As one would expect, Herr Bangemann argues passionately in favour of a European industrial policy, which he



Success story: Airbus is an exception to the rule that governments are rarely technological leaders

defines as "creating international competitiveness". At the same time, he rejects the old-fashioned approach of subsidising companies, rightly arguing that no economic or industrial success story has ever been based on subsidies or state patronage. Industrial policy, he writes, cannot be completely consistent in other words, there can be circumstances in which subsidies are justified, though they are the exception, not the rule.

In Britain, Herr Bangemann has frequently been subjected to criticism because of his drive for harmonisation. Many will recall the dispute over what constitutes a European crisp or a Euro-sausage. But while Herr Bangemann might be a Euro-federalist, he is not a Euro-socialist.

In Germany, where he was economic minister before going to Brussels, he was considered to be on the right wing of the Free Democratic Party, the junior coalition partner in Chancellor Kohl's government. One can summarise his basic proposition as follows. First, to achieve an internationally competitive economy, one

needs a strong and competitive home market. In the past, the lack of a large, homogeneous home market was one of Europe's main weaknesses, but this is now being remedied by the move to a single market.

Second, European companies should be encouraged to grow, so they can achieve the critical mass necessary to excel in global competition.

Third, industrial policy should be applied horizontally, to ensure a level playing field not only within sectors but also between sectors. The opposite would amount to picking winners. The same principles apply to regional policy.

Most intriguing are Herr Bangemann's references to competition policy, on which he is frequently at odds with Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner.

This disagreement makes for a rare event in book publishing, a foreword expressing disagreement with the book itself. The foreword is written by

Sir Leon, who, while applauding Herr Bangemann's views on a non-discriminatory and non-interventionist industrial policy, says that "there is much, indeed, that I would dispute myself".

The starting-point of Herr Bangemann's analysis is that "we have to think in larger dimensions", to enable "European industry to grow to a size which will be globally competitive". He believes the commission should increasingly use the single European market as the relevant arena when looking at competition issues, rather than selected domestic markets. The effect of this, though not necessarily the intention, would be a rather lax competition policy.

He favours some controversial aspects of the present regime, including decision-making by the commission "behind closed doors and relatively quickly".

Secretly, he says, is important, since too much public scrutiny, as he knows from his experience as German economics minister, amounts to

"public gauntlet running", which he disapproves of.

The argument is influenced by the notion that size enhances global competitiveness, although Herr Bangemann does emphasise the importance of small and medium-sized companies to the economy. The notion of critical mass has been stretched over the years, and in any case critical mass varies over time and from industry to industry. I suspect that it makes little sense to establish a general theory.

One of the other issues, Herr Bangemann displays much of common sense. He points out that a total lack of government industrial policy is virtually impossible, since governments influence industry as consumers of goods and services, as legislators and as regulators. Governments certainly have a formidable influence on the supply of labour, the most important industrial input, through education and training systems.

He also says, however, that governments' track records on paving the way for new technologies have rarely been successful, the two main exceptions being, perhaps, the French *train à grande vitesse* or the Airbus. "Usually, attempts to uncover future markets or to revitalise past successes fail miserably," he argues.

Airbus is probably the most fascinating example of a European industrial policy and, so far, Europe's main success. The aircraft consortium's chapter in the book reads like a case study to test the hypothesis that industrial policy should improve competitiveness.

Herr Bangemann writes: "Up till now, the Airbus has been the sole showpiece of European co-operation... Whoever criticises the establishment and extension of the Airbus family as a violation of free-market principles overlooks, or wants to overlook, the fact that market-based principles apply only in a limited sense to the market for wide-bodied aircraft. Apart from Airbus Industrie, there are only two other manufacturers in the world, namely Boeing and McDonnell Douglas. The founding of the Airbus consortium has for this reason led to more competition and reduced dependency on the Americans."

As far as Airbus is concerned, Herr Bangemann's wide definition of a global market, with all its implications for industrial and competition policy, is probably right. This may not necessarily be the case for most markets, where fragmentation will continue despite the EC's move to a single market.

Distribution networks and local tastes and customs can still be important barriers to trade even in a supposedly single market.

Meeting the Global Challenge, by Martin Bangemann, is published by Kogan Page at £14.95.

No bouquets for the Abbey habit

Abbey National's plans for kick-starting the housing market are fine — for Abbey National. The taxpayer at large might take an entirely different view. How convenient for Abbey if the Inland Revenue simply made up the difference between the inflated purchase price of a home bought at the top of the market and the now much lower sale value. Abbey and other imprudent lenders would avoid nasty provisions and write-offs in their balance sheets. Indeed lenders might be sorely tempted to foreclose on the most duff loans on their books in the knowledge that the taxman would turn them into good ones. But for the fact that many hard-pressed families might be given a fresh start on the housing ladder, the idea would be laughable.

It would be cruel if Abbey borrowers trapped in homes they cannot afford to sell were to believe that help along the above lines is at hand. Long before that point is reached, the Government would need to justify such handouts as a proper deployment of taxpayers' cash. Abbey's special pleading is no different from that of other industrial pressure groups who naturally target themselves as the most deserving case for state hand-outs. If by some astonishing reversal of Government policy the building societies were able to take pride of place at some trough of Whitehall money, why not textiles, construction, property or indeed hard pressed exporters of refrigerators to Eskimos.

Like most pleas for blanket subsidy, Abbey's ideas would have perverse effects. Many Lloyd's names might be tempted to take advantage of a chance to scale down their domestic arrangements. These who were blatantly speculating on property during the late 1980s boom would doubtless give their support. Those who will not pay would benefit as well as those who cannot. In truth Abbey is perfectly free now to write down the mortgages of its most unfortunate borrowers if it is unable to resist the need to stimulate the housing market.

The government is horribly constrained in its finances by the need to meet growing social security payments while tax receipts are flat. A severe squeeze on public spending, one logical response is already in hand. However much it may be politically attractive to assist cases of housing hardship there are limits to what can be done. Additional Government borrowing might not yet crowd out business borrowers. But that could become a serious threat when recovery finally begins. And it would be ironic if dollops of state aid here and there finally snapped the tolerance of overseas sterling holders. The resulting need to raise interest rates would undo the benefits of any ill-considered tinkering and even intensify problems in the housing market. Hopefully, special pleading will not become a new Abbey habit.

Germany falling

Satisfaction at a fall in German output is not just ignoble, sour grapes. The sooner the Bundesbank can be convinced that Germany is not headed for hyperinflation, the sooner the British housing market, and the rest of the economies of Britain, France and others can breathe a sigh of relief. In this quest, industrial output figures for the former West Germany, which are notoriously unreliable over short periods, are of less import than the latest fall in German inflation, which was steeper than expected. Markets remain transfixed by the sternness of the Bundesbank, still fearing another rise in the discount rates because of its worries on excessive money growth and federal borrowing. Earlier predictions of an autumn easing of German rates should not, however, be written off yet.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Making note on summit

IF THERE is ever to be an economic note, who will print it? The Royal Bank of Scotland may be making a thinly disguised early bid by issuing two million commemorative £1 notes to mark December's European Community summit at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh. The summit comes at the end of Britain's EC presidency and the notes, numbered EC0000001 to EC2000000, will be designed to include a European symbol. Criticism of the exchange-rate mechanism has evidently not diminished Scotland's enthusiasm for European monetary union and the Scottish financial institutions have been lobbying hard — against all odds, insiders say — to have part of any European central bank located in Scotland. The Royal Bank is now the only Scottish bank still issuing £1 notes and, if nothing else, the new Euro version should attract some interest at wedding this winter. According to Alwyn James, the bank's distinctly un-Scottish sounding spokesman, they are much in demand for planning on the gowns of Greek and Hindu brides. "It's a lot cheaper than using £5 notes," he says. "People ring us and order 500 at a time."

Cape of good hope

WITH South Africa in industrial turmoil, it is good to see that the initiative of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce has not been entirely swallowed up by events. On August 12, it is holding what is being billed as a major symposium on "affirmative action:



and black advancement" and reports that all 300 tickets for the conference, addressed to executives, personnel managers and union leaders in major corporations, have been snapped up. Among the speakers will be the Mayor of Cape Town and Professor Abbie Sachs, a senior ANC member. Leigh James, of the Chamber of Commerce, says: "There has been an incredible amount of interest. One company has even cancelled its annual general meeting so that managers can attend." When the violence dies down, there may be hope yet.

Fresh cycle

AFTER six years with British Airways' pension fund, where he managed the UK side of the fund's £4 billion assets, Chris Wright is joining BZW, a client of the pension fund, where he will work with Stephen Pull, joint head of UK sales. Widely known in the City for his "wild and entertaining" stories and behaviour, Wright, 33, left BA on Friday and was yesterday already being missed by colleagues. Michelle McGregor-

Smith, a fund manager, admitted: "It is very quiet without him." Wright is spending part of August cycling in France before pedalling his way to BZW in September. The move, he says, is prompted by a desire to have "more opportunities to create interesting ideas and to have more fun, dealing with a different range of people. In an in-house pension fund there is only one style and there's a limit on ways of doing things."

Sweet hearts

RUDOLPH Sprüngli, 72, the chocolate millionaire who heads Lindt & Sprüngli, has remarried. Readers on Saturday will recall the strange tale of when Sprüngli, recently divorced from his 68-year-old wife, announced earlier this year that he planned to marry Alexandra Gantenbein, 44, a former member of the mysterious "I am" sect founded in America in the 1930s. Rumours swept the Swiss financial community that Lindt & Sprüngli was in danger of falling under the influence of the sect, which prompted the appointment of KPMG, the accountants, to investigate. Sprüngli cancelled the wedding, saying he had been confronted with new facts that forced his hand, but in the latest twist has gone ahead with the marriage. Sprüngli said yesterday: "I personally employed a neutral agent to investigate the veracity of the rumours and suspicions concerning the private life of Mrs. Gantenbein." Since neither the reports on his fiancée nor the suggested infiltration of the company were true, he married her on Friday.

DEBRA ISAAC

Neutral arbitration needed to protect pensioners

From Mr M.E. Gaiford
Sir, May I most strongly endorse the remarks of Mr Ralph Whiting (Business Letters July 21) regarding the composition of Professor Goode's Occupational Pensions Committee. The deliberate exclusion of pensioners from Trustee boards has led to much distrust and anger, and pensioners are unlikely to be satisfied with the conclusions of a committee where they are the only interested party not properly represented.

As for Mrs Marshall's letter (same day), if Sean Hand's suggestion would be as beneficial to the lawyers as she envisages, at least it would be for a very good reason: at present, given the uncertainty and unsuitability of trust law, and the enormous cost of litigation, pensioners just cannot afford to go to law, and have little choice but to put up with the abuses. Apart from

maladministration or fraud, the main problem is to ensure that pensioners get the fairest possible deal from their funds — which, as anyone who looks impartially at the record over the past 30 years must agree, they have not. Inflation, coupled with the nature of the employer's pension promise, namely to pay a pension expressed in pounds sterling, has enabled the employer to reduce his effective commitment by paying a pension of ever-decreasing value, in some cases down to half or even less, whilst the assets of the Funds have in general, certainly over the longer term, kept pace with, and in many cases exceeded, inflation.

The obvious and inevitable result has been the creation of massive so-called "surpluses", which are now being used, not for the benefit of the pensioners who have suffered in the past, but for that of the

employer and current employees. Whatever new regulations may be introduced, it must be recognised that the law — whether present trust law or a new pensions law — is a cumbersome, uncertain, and prohibitively expensive route to "fairness".

What is urgently needed is some form of neutral arbitration, perhaps on the lines of ACAS or Employment Tribunals, which can resolve disputes between pensioners and their Funds. The present OPB and the pensions Ombudsman — as we have discovered — will not concern themselves in the sort of situation I have described above.

Professor Goode please note.
Yours faithfully,
M.E. GAIFORD,
Amberley,
Sothern Lane,
Sudbrooke,
Lincoln.

Conspiracy at Lloyd's is non-existent

From the Solicitor to the Corporation of Lloyd's
Sir, Your correspondence led by Mr Benyon (Business Letters, August 3) seek to place a conspiratorial gloss on the action taken by the Council of Lloyd's in connection with the ballot of members now taking place. There is no conspiracy. The following points are relevant.

First, the Council determined that in the interests of fairness and democracy, a postal ballot should be conducted on the five resolutions debated at the extraordinary general meeting on July 27.

Second, the Council has sought to be even handed in the conduct of the postal ballot. It has, therefore, consulted the Electoral Reform Society (which is conducting the ballot). It has advised that a period of 28 days between dispatch and receipt of com-

Car controls

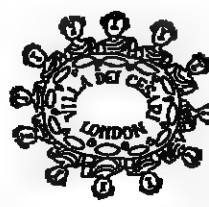
From S. W. de Looze
Sir, Dr James Cope suggests (July 23) that the reason why so few Japanese cars are seen on Italian roads is that the Italian motorist is "intensely loyal to Fiat". I suggest that the real reason is the restrictive import policy practised by the Italian government. I believe that, for many years, the Italians restricted Japanese car imports to a maximum of 3,000 per annum. The French, I believe, restrict Japanese imports to a maximum of 3 per cent of their market.

Against this background, perhaps the European consumer organisations should address their attention, in the first instance, to mainland Europe.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MALLINSON,
Solicitor to the Corporation of Lloyd's,
Lloyd's of London,
One Lime Street, EC3

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LAW TIMES

● PAYING THE JUDGES 23
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As another review of press control begins, David Newell urges caution and Tom Welsh, right, criticises present legislative barriers

So far, it's been good news

In the wake of the David Mellor affair, the press is watching anxiously to see what action the government will take on invasion of privacy. The reaction to the government's appointment of Sir David Calcutt to review his report on privacy and assess press behaviour since the creation of the Press Complaints Commission was one of surprise: many expected the review to be an informal internal one. The move was a politically clever one by the government, particularly as it helped to distance ministers from their own pre-election informal observations about the success of the commission and their anxieties about Calcutt's proposed press legislation.

Sir David must now assess what has happened since he reported in June 1990. The establishment of the commission, the Press Standards Board of Finance Ltd and the industry's editorial code of practice has shown the press's total commitment to the development of a new system of self-regulation. That system takes into account the report's main recommendations.

There are, rightly, differences between the new system and that proposed by the report — inevitably, given that it recommended self-regulation rather than statutory control. A government rejection of the commission model would lead inexorably to calls for the establishment of the report's tribunal of last resort: a statutory press complaints tribunal. The differences between self-regulation and statutory control surely make any half-way house unworkable.

Freedom of expression in newspapers and magazines would be subjected to specially targeted controls and restrictions. A state system of licences for publications would have to be considered. In the end, it surely would not be acceptable to restrict the freedom of expression of the author of an article in a newspaper to a greater extent than the author of a book or than a politician in an election pamphlet.

The commission's annual report

for 1991 paints an encouraging picture. More than 25 per cent of complaints were resolved informally between editors and complainants and only 3 per cent of complaints were upheld. A survey by the Guild of Editors has shown that more than 80 per cent of complaints received by newspapers surveyed are settled speedily and amicably by newspaper editors without recourse to the commission or legal representation.

The publication of the commission's advertising campaign, which invites readers to make complaints about items concerning inaccuracy, intrusion, harassment or discrimination, is further evidence of the industry's commitment to the new system. On this basis, it would be wholly wrong for the future regulation of thousands of publications to be put in the balance by several newspapers' coverage of the Paddy Ashdown, royal family, Virginia Bottomley and Mellor cases.

Sir David should give support to the commission, which the industry established as a result of his recommendations. He should also confirm his central recommendation that a tort of infringement of privacy should not be introduced and that "where further consideration at any time to be given to the introduction of such a tort, this should not be limited to the press".

Any such change should be preceded by a much wider debate about privacy laws, freedom of expression, and the reform of media law.

The report's proposals to restrict further the ability of the media to report criminal cases have been implemented partly in the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1992, which has just come into operation. The government may well be taken to task by Calcutt for its failure to introduce his three new criminal offences.

These covered: entering private property without consent with intent to obtain personal information; placing a surveillance device on private property without consent; to obtain personal information; and the unauthorised taking of photographs and recording of individuals on private property without their consent.

The proposed offences have proved controversial. They are hard to draft and have been rightly criticised for their potential scope, application and defences. In particular, they would be committed only where the acts were perpetrated with a view to publishing the



Silence of the helpless

Parliament has administered a triple blow to journalists in the past two years, increasing further the large number of statutes restricting reporting in the media.

First, complex rules have been adopted to cover the reporting of family cases affecting children brought before the magistrates' courts. The rules fleshed out the restrictions in the Children Act 1989. Before October 1991, it was possible to advise a trainee reporter covering care proceedings in the juvenile court for the first time in one sentence: you can report everything so long as you do not identify the children involved. I never heard anybody object to the resulting reports.

Now, access to and reporting of care proceedings before magistrates is restricted by four interlocking items of legislation, which take the new edition of *McNae's Essential Law for Journalists*, the reporters' "Bible", a page to explain. The legislation is a nightmare for journalists and tutors. I wonder how many lawyers understand it.

The law firm Simon Olswang says the rules make the reporting of newsworthy cases before magistrates, particularly cases involving the removal of children from the parental home by local authorities, virtually impossible. I agree with that gloomy assessment.

The second blow is the Criminal Justice Act 1991, which, among other things, covers the reporting of cases involving serious sexual offences or offences of violence or cruelty against children. It introduces a new procedure to speed proceedings against people charged with such offences and allows a defendant committed for trial under this procedure to apply to a crown court for the charge to be dismissed.

Reporting restrictions are similar to those applying to committal proceedings in the magistrates' court except that, absurdly, the permitted details do not include a decision by the judge to reject the application. Here Parliament is applying the device it used for serious fraud offences in the

Criminal Justice Act 1987. The Act came into effect in time for the start of the Guinness saga in April 1989, when one of the defendants applied unsuccessfully to have the charges against him dismissed.

The *Times* contravened the Act with its headline, "Guinness charges confirmed", laying itself open to a £2,000 fine. Although it was not prosecuted — and the rest of the press was left bawling the fact that the law allowed it to report the start of the hearing but not the conclusion.

We shall now confront the same nonsense in a much wider range of cases.

The curious reason given by the Home Office for the wording of the 1987 Act was that a future jury might be affected by the fact that a judge had considered the evidence against the accused sufficient to require a trial. Yet every other crown court jury knows that the case it is trying has been committed to it by magistrates and nobody has ever suggested the risk of prejudice because of that.

Blow number three is the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1992, which from August 1992 extends the statutory prohibition on identifying rape victims to the victims of virtually all sexual assaults.

The result is that journalists will have to bestow unjustified anonymity on defendants in some cases through fear of identifying victims and will be unable to give full, accurate coverage of a trial.

There is a good reason for most, if not all, of these restrictions, but no legislator is required to consider whether that reason is good enough to outweigh the disadvantages a new restriction represents to freedom of information in a democratic society and to open justice. We are losing our freedoms casually and by default.

Why should not Parliament be required to consider the freedom-of-speech aspects of all legislation as routinely as it currently considers the financial implications?

● The author is a joint editor, with Walter Greenwood, of *McNae's Essential Law for Journalists* (12th edition, Butterworth, July 1992).

We are losing our freedoms casually and by default

Legal aid tit for tat

MANAGEMENT consultants are having a field day with the continuing dispute between lawyers and the government on legal aid and fixed fees.

Hard on the heels of the Lord Chancellor's department announcement that Price Waterhouse is carrying out a survey that will form the basis of the new fee levels, the Law Society announced that it had retained Touche Ross, essentially to shadow Price Waterhouse and "advise the society on the survey the Lord Chancellor's Department is carrying out".

Whatever happens over fixed fees, the consultants will be all right.

Lunch crimes

LAW firms and companies that have clients in to lunch must now have registered their dining rooms under the Food Premises (Registration) Regulations 1991. Stephen Gilbert, of City property specialists Stephen Lake Gilbert & Pilling, says: "The good news is that the registration is free and the food authorities cannot refuse a registration. No doubt there will be a lot of red faces in high places when they discover they have been committing a criminal offence since July 1."

Will fever

THE Law Society is approaching the promotion of its Make A Will Week with gusto. In a single day, one journalist received four copies of the press release. Perhaps the society should include a suggestion that people bequest a sum to its promotions department so that it can employ somebody to control the costs of such exuberance.

SCRIVENOR

Cash advice from your solicitor

The sight of solicitors selling insurance conjures up images of stolid professionals untypically knocking on doors to drum up business. But is the family solicitor really about to replace the Man from the Pru?

Although solicitors can become involved in any type of financial service, they are controlled by the Law Society as to how they do it, and they are confined to the independent sector. Financial advisers have to be either tied agents of one company or completely independent and able to offer the best financial products on the market.

The cost of doing this is often considerable, and many independent advisers have found it more profitable to surrender their independence and become tied to an insurance company. As tied agents, they frequently get higher rates of commission and free training. Once tied, they are limited to advising on the financial products of the company they are working for. Nine of the ten largest building societies are tied agents.

Solicitors are prohibited by their professional rules from tying themselves to any one company but licensed conveyancers are allowed to do so. Although the vast majority of solicitors pay each year for their investment business certificates to allow them to deal with financial services, only a relatively small proportion make a serious interest.

Many are deterred by the cost of setting up suitable systems for giving best advice. Others are reluctant to have work sent to them by insurance brokers and are reluctant to run the risk of upsetting them by competing with them. Another discouragement is that, because solicitors cannot keep the commissions earned on financial products, they stand to make less out of financial services than their rivals.

The *Times* has frequently criticised the reluctance of the Securities and Investment Board to compel the insurance industry to force advisers to disclose in clear terms how much commission they get.

The reason is, of course, that consumers would be suspicious of a salesperson's advice if they realised how much can turn financially on that advice. It is a lot.

I have occasionally asked clients to guess how much commission was paid on the life policy that a client has just bought. The average guess is £50. For the record, the usual commission paid to a tied agent for selling a 25-year endowment policy with a monthly premium of £100 amounts to £2,040. This is the most generous rate of commission and solicitors usually get about half of this.

Solicitors are allowed to charge a fee for the work involved in advising on financial matters. What many firms do, including mine, is to let the client decide whether to pay a fee and keep all the commission or to have half the commission and pay no fee. Some life

companies allow a client to forgo commission to an intermediary and the commission is then added to the investment to produce greater future benefits.

Predicting the value of an investment in the future represents the skilled aspect of giving investment advice. This is particularly important when advising on the choice of a life policy that is designed to pay off a mortgage in many years' time. A table in *The Savings Market* quarterly shows that for 25-year endowment policies maturing in 1991, the best one paid £21,458 and the worst one £6,910 for the same premium of £100 a year. The sizeable disparity in performance is rarely appreciated by the public, who assume that all life policies are much the same.

Those solicitors who have embarked on financial services in a serious way have tended to tailor their service to their existing clientele, and this is particularly so when the firm already has a large trust and probate practice. The tendency is to set up investment advice services geared to an existing wealthy clientele and market the service to those clients rather than to the public.

This has the advantage of efficiency and keeping the marketing cost to a minimum figure but it does mean that the public are largely unaware of the financial services that are offered by solicitors.

In a survey carried out for the Law Society, only 14 per cent of respondents said they would think of going to a solicitor for financial advice. This is something the society would like to change. Walter Merricks, the head of communications at the society, says: "Solicitors are an undervalued source of good financial advice."

To assist solicitors with the technical side of giving advice, the society has set up a separate company to provide this so that all members of the company have access to specialist advice.

Many independent insurance brokers are critical of the ability of solicitors to provide a comprehensive service and suspect that solicitors are interested only in making quick profits to offset the loss of income caused by the property recession.

There is a certain amount of truth in the first criticism in that few solicitors would claim to deal with all aspects of financial services. However, given that solicitors get less money out of such services than many of their competitors and that they have to invest a lot of time and money in order to do so, there is simply no way of making quick money out of financial services.

This is reflected in their low-key promotion of financial services, which has the unfortunate result that the public are largely unaware of a substantial source of impartial financial advice.

● The author is a practising solicitor.



PATRICK STEVENS

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

LEGAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT

The London office of a prominent American Law Firm requires an assistant to undertake research and co-ordination of work for clients. This post may suit someone intending to enter university in Autumn 1993.

The successful applicant will be required to work on his/her own initiative but will also be expected to assist with more routine tasks. Excellent communication skills and willingness to work as a member of a team are, therefore, essential.

Fluency in a second European language and computer skills would be a distinct advantage.

Salary circa £10,000, 5 weeks holiday, interest free season ticket loan etc.

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Power to uphold flawed committal

Butler v Butler
Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Nolan and Lord Justice Scott.

[Judgment July 23]
Failure to comply with the proper procedures, whether in the High Court or the county court, was not necessarily fatal to the lawfulness of an order committing a person to prison for contempt of court. Where the contemnor suffered no injustice by a failure to serve on him a copy of the committal order, the court, exercising its jurisdiction under section 13(5) of the Administration of Justice Act 1960, would not order that it be quashed.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Mr Robert Butler from an order of Judge Woodford at Ipswich County Court committing him to prison for contempt in breaching non-molestation injunctions made in the county court. Mr Butler challenged his committal on the ground that the incorrect county court form of order had been used, and that he had never been served with a copy of it.

Mrs Eva Joyce for Mr Butler; Mr Edward Irving for Mrs Butler.
THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that in the county court, Order 29, rule 1(5) of the County Court Rules 1981 applied in the case of committal for breach of injunctions.

In the 1991 and 1992 editions of The County Court Practice the prescribed form of committal order was Form N79. In the 1991 edition there was, however, a special Form N111 for use where

the committal was under the Domestic Violence and Family Proceedings Act 1976 and the contemnor had been arrested under a power of arrest attached to the injunction.

Although more appropriate to such a case than Form N79 it did not, unlike Form N79, inform the contemnor that he could apply to the court to purge his contempt and to ask for release. However the 1992 edition of The County Court Practice recorded that following the coming into force of the Family Proceedings Rules (SI 1991 No 1247), Form N111 was obsolete.

Mr Butler had relied on a series of cases affirming that where the liberty of the subject was in issue the proper procedures had to be observed strictly.

Those procedures were designed to ensure (a) that no alleged contemnor would be in any doubt of the charge, (b) he would have a proper opportunity of showing cause why he was not in contempt, and (c) if an order for committal was made, he would know precisely in what respects he had been found to have offended and was given a written record of the findings and his sentence.

His Lordship referred to that line of authority and in particular *Children's District Council v Keane* ([1985] 1 WLR 619), *Clarke v Clarke* ([1990] 2 FLR 115), *Hawes v Hawes* ([1992] NLJ 753) and *B v B* ([1991] 2 FLR 538).

A rule of law seemed to be evolving that a failure to comply with Order 29, rule 1(5) of the County Court Rules 1981 was fatal to the lawfulness of the committal, and that in contempt cases the

court's powers under section 13(3) of the 1960 Act were used only in exceptional circumstances.

As in *Williams v Fawcett* ([1986] QB 608), his Lordship detected "a manifest slip or error" and said that in retracing the court's steps there would be no breach of the rule of stare decisis. One only had to read section 13(1) and (5) to appreciate that in appeals relating to contempt, the court had a complete discretion fettered only by the need to do justice.

In *Linnert v Coles* ([1976] QB 555, 560) Lord Justice Lawton had identified the error into which the court was in danger of falling in its consideration of the consequences of procedural irregularities in contempt cases, such as the failure to serve the committal order or serving it late.

In all contempt cases, justice required the court to take account of the interests of at least the contemnor, the victim and other users of the court for whom the maintenance of the authority of the court was of supreme importance.

While the court should always be quick to identify and condemn any departure from the proper procedures designed to protect the alleged contemnor's interests, the interests of the victim and of maintaining the court's authority required that in deciding what use to make of its powers under section 13(3) the court should ask itself whether notwithstanding such a departure the contemnor had suffered any injustice.

It followed neither that he had nor that the order should be quashed. If he had suffered no injustice the committal order

should stand, subject, if necessary, to variation of the order to take account of any technical or procedural defect.

In other cases, it might be possible to do justice between the parties by exercising the court's power under section 13(3) by making "such other order as may be just". If justice required that the order be quashed one option might be to order a retrial: see *Duo v Osborne* (formerly *Duo*) ([1992] 1 WLR 611).

In the county court consideration should be given to the following matters:
1 Court staff should once again be reminded of the urgency with which the documentation of contempt cases should be undertaken and of the need to comply strictly with the rules.

2 Service of committal orders should always be made personally on the contemnor.

3 Either Form N111 should be resubmitted and amended to include a reminder of the right to apply to purge contempt, or Form N79 should be revised to take account of the fact that the proceedings might begin with an arrest under a power of arrest attached to an injunction under the 1976 Act.

Mr Butler's appeal had been based on the purest technicality. Justice required that the judge's order be affirmed and the appeal dismissed.

Lord Justice Nolan agreed and Lord Justice Scott delivered a concurring judgment.
Solicitors: Tomlinson & Dickinson, Sudbury; Bates Wells & Braithwaite, Sudbury.

British Waterways Board v National Rivers Authority and Another

Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Scott.
[Judgment July 16]

Occupiers of land who pumped water from an adjacent outfall channel connected to, but not forming part of a canal, thereby inducing a gravitational flow from the canal to the channel of the same volume of water, were not making an abstraction of water from the canal within the meaning of section 135(1) of the Water Resources Act 1963.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the plaintiffs, the British Waterways Board, from Mr Justice Mervyn Davies, sitting in the Chancery Division (*The Times* April 23, 1991) who had refused to grant the board a declaration that the issue of a licence by the first defendants, the Anglian Water Authority, predecessors to the National Rivers Authority, to the second defendants, W. Allison & Son, a firm, was ultra vires on the ground that it purported to authorise abstraction of water from the canal.

Lord Williams, QC and Mr Anthony Seys Llewellyn for the board; Mr Gerard Ryan, QC and Mr Philip Fitchey for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that the appeal was concerned with the abstraction of water from a watercourse known as the Oxpens Drain outfall channel in Lincolnshire.

Abstraction of water

In June 1986, W. Allison & Son had applied for and obtained from the Anglian Water Authority a licence to abstract water from the outfall channel.

As part of its duties under section 10 of the Transport Act 1962 the British Waterways Board maintained the Fossdyke Navigation Canal into which the River Witham flowed. The board claimed a declaration that the grant of the licence to Allison was ultra vires, seeking additionally an injunction to restrain Allison from abstracting water.

The canal and the channel were connected, although the channel was not owned or managed by the board. Abstraction from the channel caused a flow of water from the canal to the channel.

Lord Williams submitted that it followed that by abstracting water from the channel Allison was also abstracting from the canal, for which they needed a separate licence. He submitted that the definition of "abstraction" in section 135 of the 1963 Act covered indirect as well as direct abstraction, however far away the abstraction was from the source.

Section 135 of the 1963 Act provided: "(1) In this Act... the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively... 'abstraction', in relation to water contained in any source of supply in a river authority area, means the doing of anything whereby any of that water is removed from that source of supply and either - (a) ceases (either permanently or temporarily) to be comprised in the water

resources of that area, or (b) is transferred to another source of supply in that area, and 'abstract' shall be construed accordingly..."

Lord Williams correctly pointed out that the definition was extremely wide and submitted that an amount of water equivalent to that abstracted from the canal was "removed" from the canal and "transferred" to another source of supply, namely the outfall channel, thus satisfying the definition.

Mr Justice Mervyn Davies had found it impossible to accept that submission, as did his Lordship. If it were right, Allison would have to obtain two licences: one from the authority, to abstract from the channel and one, a sub-licence, from the board, to abstract from the canal. That could not possibly have been the intention of the legislature.

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resources of that area, or (b) is transferred to another source of supply in that area, and 'abstract' shall be construed accordingly..."

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus had said that no man could step into the same river twice. Is Lordship would adapt that and say that no man could abstract the same water from two different places at the same time.

Where, as in the instant case, there was a single hydrological system with interconnected sources of supply and a single means of abstraction, then the abstracted took place at the immediate source of supply and not at any other, more remote, source.

Allison had a valid licence from the authority to abstract from the outfall channel: they needed a further licence or sub-licence.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Scott agreed.
Solicitors: Mr R. J. Duffy, Welford; Miss Della Stan, Peterborough.

Discretion of court

In re S (a Minor)

It was only in an exceptional case under the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction that the court should refuse to order the immediate return of a child who had been wrongfully removed.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Glidewell, Lord Justice Balcombe and Mr Justice Boreham) so held in a reserved judgment on July 7 when dismissing the appeal of the father against the dismissal by Mr Justice Ewbank on January 17 of his application for the return to France of his daughter, S, aged nine,

wrongfully removed by her mother.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE said that it was an exceptional case and that the discretion which it was with the court under the provisions of article 13 of the Convention to refuse to order an immediate return had to be exercised in the context of the approach of that Convention.

The questions whether a child objected to being returned and he attained an age and degree of maturity at which it was appropriate to take account of her view were questions of fact peculiar within the province of the judge.

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Part-timers who must be paid more

Sir Frederick Lawton, a distinguished former member of the Court of Appeal and a friend, wrote in Law Times (July 21) that "few who have been offered (judicial) appointments have refused and only two for financial reasons".

Sir Frederick went on to explain his own motivation for accepting appointment as a High Court judge when the offer was presented to him. When he says that the attraction of appointment was that for the rest of his working life he would be able to take an active part in the administration of justice, I believe him.

A man of his intellectual calibre and robust outlook would be able to look forward to a period when he could influence substantially the formation of law and the attitude of courts to its interpretation.

Throughout his article on judicial salaries, Sir Frederick is clearly referring to the position of the High Court bench. Certainly the High Court judges are affected by the government's recent decision to ignore the detailed and carefully researched recommendations of the Top Salaries Review Board and to award a 4 per cent salary increase this year.

The judiciary, however, is a much wider body of men and women than the High Court, the senior and elite branch of the judiciary, who, as Sir Frederick points out, have the benefit of knightships, staffed judicial lodgings, chauffeur-driven transport and a comfortable lifestyle.

The judiciary also includes circuit judges, stipendiary magistrates, district judges and, to an expanding extent, full-time chairmen of various tribunals.

At present, I head the industrial tribunals in England and Wales, where there are 65 full-time chairmen and approximately twice that number of part-time chairmen. Of course, there are also full-time chairmen in many other tribunals. These members of the judiciary work in modest accommodation and with none



If fewer people apply to work as part-time tribunal chairmen, the whole system of justice will suffer, Judge Timothy Lawrence says

of the pomp and ceremony that go with courts.

They have to deal with litigants in person, they often have to deal with very difficult points of law, they must be familiar with the latest rulings from Europe and they must be in a position to deliver their reasons in written form in every case. Not for them the buffers and the limousines.

Those who seek appointment as chairmen may be barristers or solicitors and are not usually the exceptional high-flyers who adorn the High Court bench. They will

be cared for, mortgages paid and houses and cars repaired, and tribunal chairmen are likely to be continuing to work in proximity to their former colleagues. They are hurt and offended, therefore, when they see themselves slipping substantially behind in what they are earning after deciding to serve the community rather than the client.

Much more important, however, is the difficulty in recruitment. Part-time chairmen are paid daily fees based on the full-time chairman's salary.

Part-time chairmen have to take a realistic decision on whether they can afford to take off at least 30 days, or six working weeks, a year to sit at substantially less than they would earn in their offices, and there is now a marked shortage of candidates of high calibre presenting themselves for full-time appointment.

The best appointments are likely to be made when the field for selection is widest and, conversely, the fewer candidates who present themselves for appointment, the more likely it is that an indifferent candidate will secure appointment.

Those who appear before tribunals are entitled to as high a standard of justice as any others and it is my earnest hope that the calibre of judicial appointments in industrial tribunals does not suffer as a result of the government's recent decision.

The salaries of all the judiciary are linked and although few, if any, have refused a High Court judgeship on grounds of money, that is not true further down the scale.

The part-time judiciary are themselves the seed corn of the future and, if they fail to present themselves for consideration by the Lord Chancellor, there will be fewer in the pool for full-time appointments and the whole system of justice will suffer.

The author is the president of Industrial Tribunals for England and Wales.



The personal loyalties of partnerships are coming under financial stress

Financial stress is well established as a chief reason for divorce and it is now starting to cause break-ups among legal partnerships. From big City corporate law firms to high street practices, increasing numbers of partners are being asked to leave by their colleagues.

What makes these cases particularly traumatic for the victims is the nature of the partnership relationship itself. The idea of mutual support and the camaraderie of shared endeavour is made to look pretty shallow when your colleagues dump you overboard just because the numbers are getting short.

"I was very shocked that my partners had acted in such an unprofessional way and I was resolved not to go quietly from the scene," says a woman who has recently been asked to leave a small high street practice in southern England. "I felt so attacked both personally and financially and I was under so much stress that on a couple of occasions I really thought I was heading for a nervous breakdown."

Although every case is different - the woman partner, for example, had fallen out with a male colleague - there seems little question that the decline in fee income is an important factor in accelerating schisms within partnerships. When money is tight the general feeling of insecurity leads to a search for scapegoats. With more time on their hands the partners have greater opportunity to plot and scheme against one another.

What usually happens is that the finger of blame is pointed at the members of the partnership who appear to be performing least well financially. In partnerships that have a mix of legal aid, private client and small-scale commercial work, it is often the partners doing legal aid work, and particularly family law work, who find themselves under attack.

Breaking up may be hard for you

Roderick Banks, a barrister specialising in partnership law, is now being progressively drawn into a mediation role to try to resolve problems in partnerships. "I am seeing the spotlight turned increasingly on so-called unproductive partners, who rapidly find themselves being stigmatised as 'burnt out' by the rest of the partners," Mr Banks says. "Often these tend to be the 'finder' type of partner, if they are not having much success at bringing in the work or what they get is not particularly well paid, they risk being asked to leave."

As with all partnerships, it is hard to evaluate the specific contributions made by every individual. By dispensing with a partner at a time when there is no new work to be found, partnerships are at risk of missing out once the market starts to get moving again.

"It is a knee-jerk response to get rid of people when times are tough," Mr Banks says, "and firms are losing some very good partners in the process."

Where possible, Mr Banks advises troubled partnerships to get into Relate-style counselling before it is too late. He is a keen supporter of alternative dispute resolution and spends much of his time

trying to establish common ground and positive solutions to the problems of partnerships.

He is not optimistic about the mood in the profession, however. "Loyalty among lawyers is just about dead," he says. "I am afraid that solicitors are no longer gentlemen. Good faith is the bedrock of partnership and when that crumbles then the partnership is, in effect, at an end."

So once disputes become serious Mr Banks advises a determined approach. "If you fall out with your partners, you must sit tight and not lose the initiative," he says. "If necessary, make it clear that you are willing to leave, but on your terms. The problem is that many partners are so shell-shocked by the way they have been treated that they cannot judge what to do or where to go."

As it happens, a cool head is a vital requirement in these difficult circumstances. Ironically, many partnership agreements are vague or badly drafted and it can require the finest legal skills to negotiate through them. Following the old adage that the doctor who administers to himself has a fool for a patient, Mr Banks thinks independent legal advice is essential for detached analysis.

"Partners have a large part of their lives and their money tied up in their firms," he says. "When people fall out it is bound to bring personal animosity. You cannot expect people to do their best job, even for themselves, in those circumstances."

For a profession in trouble Mr Banks has only one consolation: "If you think it is bad between lawyers you ought to see the doctors when they fall out. For dirty tricks I can assure you it is the medical practices that really take the biscuit."

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NEWS OF THE WORLD

*Source NRS July 92

Kauntze names Kooyonga as definite starter at York

Jovite to an emphatic win in the Budweiser Irish Derby at the Curragh, where he reversed Epsom Derby form with Dr Devious.

Eighth victory over county opposition wins touring side a £50,000 prize

Pakistan team hits the jackpot

BY RICHARD STREETON

CHELMSFORD (final day of three): The Pakistanis beat Essex by seven wickets

THE Pakistanis moved smoothly to victory yesterday to win the £50,000 prize-money from Tetley Bitter, the sponsors, for completing eight wins against the counties. They were left to score 193 in 38 overs and shrewdly paced half-centuries by Salim Malik and Asif Mujtaba made certain they did not falter.

There were still 23 balls remaining when Wasim Akram pulled Stephenson for four to clinched the prize for the touring team. In their own currency it sounds even more convincing as it does to 2,350,000 rupees. The money goes into the team pool, which this summer, in round figures, has now reached £78,000 from all matches during their tour.

Another £27,000 remains on offer from the fifth Test match, the three remaining one-day internationals and their final county game against Gloucestershire. Even before this latest financial reward, it is doubtful if any cricketers have ever earned as much from the game as the present Pakistani team in recent months.

Their World Cup players each received land grants and money from their government totalling £60,000 in value for winning the trophy in Australia, as well as other gifts from rich supporters.

The only potential worry for the Pakistanis as they started their second innings on a turning pitch was that Javed Miandad had not fielded because of a stomach upset and could not have batted until five wickets had fallen. The issue never arose. Any impetuosity was spurned and success rapidly became a formality.

Ramiz Raja and Shoaib Mohammad began with 47 in 12 overs before Ramiz lifted a

catch against Childs to mid-wicket. Shoaib was bowled soon afterwards as he tried to pull against the left-arm spinner. Malik and the left-handers Mujtaba quickly settled into an effortless stand worth 88 in 13 overs. Both found the gaps regularly against an inner and outer ring of fieldsmen, five of whom were on the boundary edge.

Malik, trying to cut, was caught behind against Stephenson as soon as he reached his half-century before several firm strokes from Wasim Akram completed the task.

Essex, who had lost Gooch and Stephenson overnight, were never going to be in a position to win themselves. They sold their wickets dearly, though, and in the conditions it was to their credit that they managed to stretch their second innings until just after three o'clock.

Mushtaq Ahmed achieved almost extravagant turn as he bowled for more than three hours to finish with three wickets. Salim Malik, an occasional leg spinner, who spun the ball less, claimed two at important junctures while Wasim Akram swept aside the last three batsmen in 13 balls.

Such, the nightwatchman, epitomised the Essex resistance by lingering through the first 85 minutes. During this time his only scoring stroke was a pushed two into the covers.

He was finally leg-before to a ball from Naved Anjum that kept low. Anjum might yet have to play at the Oval on Thursday as the pinched nerve in Aqib Javed's knee has not yet responded to treatment and Aja-ur-Rehman strained a calf muscle on Saturday and took no part yesterday.

Otherwise Lewis provided the main obstacle to the Pakistanis. He had defended soundly for three-and-a-quarter hours when, immediately after the interval, he was caught trying to cut Mushtaq.



Nightwatchman falls: Naved Anjum shows his delight at dismissing Such

Munton shatters dream

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

EDGBASTON (final day of three): Warwickshire (24pts) beat Leicestershire (1) by an innings and 124 runs

THE prospect of Leicestershire carrying off the county championship always seemed a shade bizarre and although, under the existing system, one defeat cannot spoil a summer, this one has certainly done its best to spoil their pipe dream.

There was only one team at Edgbaston yesterday who looked remotely capable of sustaining a title challenge and that was not Nigel Briens' side. Briens, indeed, was one of the six batsmen swept away within 80 minutes' play as Warwickshire won even before the potatoes had boiled for lunch. Tim Munton completing match figures of 12 for 110 with a morning's work of five for 38.

Warwickshire move up to third place, trailing Leicestershire by the single point they gleaned from this humiliation. As Leicestershire have played a game more than both Essex and Warwickshire, and three more than fourth-placed Nottinghamshire, they will have their work cut out to stay in touch even if they can quickly put this experience behind them.

It has to be said that Leicestershire were weakened by injuries to Mills and

COUNTY TABLE

	P	W	L	D	Bt	Pt	Pl
Essex (16)	15	7	4	4	45	40	187
Leics (16)	18	6	4	6	29	42	187
Wandsworth (2)	15	5	6	4	47	49	186
Notts (4)	13	6	5	5	35	38	185
Derbyshire (1)	15	6	4	5	38	39	184
Surrey (5)	16	4	4	7	42	34	184
Hampshire (8)	14	4	3	7	41	34	180
Northants (17)	14	4	3	7	41	33	180
Barnet (10)	15	3	3	9	44	42	176
Sussex (11)	15	3	6	6	44	41	175
West Middlesex (16)	14	3	1	10	43	39	175
Worce (7)	15	3	3	7	38	35	175
Derbyshire (1)	15	3	3	7	38	35	175
Yorkshire (14)	14	3	3	8	36	35	172
*Glouce (13)	15	3	6	6	39	42	171
Leicestershire (8)	15	1	5	10	42	42	170
Durham (10)	15	2	7	6	32	39	163
Glamorgan (12)	13	2	4	7	29	30	161

(184) includes in brackets
* Indicates abandoned match

THE TIMES
SPORT

TUESDAY AUGUST 4 1992

McKoy's gold in 110 metres hurdles completes remarkable turn of events since 1988

Jackson stumbles out of the medals

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN BARCELONA

COLIN Jackson last night lost the Olympic gold medal he had come here for to his home town. In Cardiff, Mark McKoy, a Canadian whose family has been staying with Jackson this summer, was a clear winner of the 110 metres hurdles as Jackson ran a race littered with mistakes.

The Welshman stumbled at the third and fourth flights, and again at the last, the tenth, to seventh among a field of eight finalists. McKoy went on to win in a time, 13.12sec, which has been easy pickings for Jackson on more than one occasion this season. The Briton, though, was gracious in defeat. "It could not happen to a nicer guy," he said after the race.

What difference for McKoy in comparison with his last Olympics, in 1988 in Seoul. After finishing seventh in the hurdles final, he walked out on the Canadian team in the wake of the Ben Johnson positive drug test before he was due to compete in the relay. As a result, he received a two-year suspension from his national federation and was subsequently refused membership of Cardiff Athletic Club, Jackson's club.

McKoy then admitted at the Dublin inquiry into the Johnson affair that he had taken steroids. Jackson, however, insists that the Canadian is clean now.

He did not run a perfect race last night but it was good enough. He hit three of the last five flights but, by that time, the gold medal was out of the reach of the other challengers. Given his own shoddy performance, Jackson would not have been surprised at McKoy's victory. While the focus of attention had been on himself, his fellow Briton, Tony Jarrett, and the three United States hurdlers, Jack Pierce, Tony Dees and Arthur Blake, Jackson had been saying that McKoy was one to watch.

Jackson's problems began at the third hurdle, coming in too low, he virtually sat on it, stumbled and could not get up for the fourth, which he kicked over. Regaining his composure superbly, he was in contention for silver again by the ninth flight but, giving every-



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British out of hockey, page 27
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thing to try to make up on McKoy, clattered the last, stumbled again, and crossed the line with only Hugh Teape, his other British teammate, behind him.

Jackson said that a pinched nerve in his back had affected his warm-up to the event and his racing but he added: "It is not an excuse. It is the first time I have come as favourite and all I had to do was go out and perform."

Dees took the silver, which Jackson had won in Seoul, and Pierce the bronze. Jarrett was most unfortunate not to come away with third and was given the same time as Pierce. Dees clocked 13.24, Pierce 13.26 and Jarrett 13.26. Jackson was two-tenths further behind.

And Linford Christie's fondest wish after his own gold medal in the 100 metres — that his close friend should win one too — was not to be. Christie still has hopes of a sprint double after coming through the first two rounds of the 200 metres. The semi-finals and final are being held tomorrow.

Christie was the slowest of the three British qualifiers from the second round, but only because he was easing up. In doing so he caught the eye less than either of his two British team-mates, John Regis and Marcus Adam. Adam had a day in the sun as he crossed the line ahead of Michael Johnson, the title favourite who had dominated the distance for three years. Adam, who won in 20.43sec to Johnson's 20.55, was honest enough to admit "Michael was playing."

So was Regis up to a point. Had he not eased down 15 metres from the finish, he would have broken Christie's four-year-old British record.



Jump for home: Jarrett on his way to qualifying for yesterday's Olympic 110 metres hurdles final

He ran 20.16 and Christie's mark is 20.09.

Ellen Van Langen, of Holland, took an exciting victory in the women's 800 metres final, becoming the first athlete from outside eastern Europe to win the title since Madeline Manning, of the United States, in 1968.

The title seemed to be going its usual way when Lilia Nurudinova, of the United States, forged ahead with 150 metres to go. But, firing down the home straight, she

drifted into lane two and allowed room for Van Langen to come past on the inside. The Dutch woman was timed at 1min 55.54sec and Nurudinova at 1:55.99.

Meanwhile, Alina Ivanova, of the Unified Team, who won the women's 10km walk, was disqualified for lifting both feet off the ground.

That meant that the gold went to Chen Yueling, of China, who finished second in 44 minutes 32seconds, but became Asia's first woman

Olympic athletics champion. Yelena Nikolova, of the Unified Team, took the silver in 44:33.

Neena Salvador, of Italy, who was initially announced as bronze medal winner after Ivanova was stripped of victory, was later disqualified as well. That left China also taking the bronze through Li Chun Xiu, who finished in 44:41.

Maritza Marten became only the second Cuban to win an Olympic athletics title

when she won the discus gold medal. The 28-year-old from Havana, whose victory came a day after her compatriot, Javier Sotomayor, won the men's high jump.

Lillehammer, the hosts of the 1994 Winter Games, is attempting to recruit prominent athletes in Barcelona to speak out on behalf of peace efforts, and perhaps contribute financial aid, in Sarajevo, the war-battered city that hosted the 1984 Games.

Equestrianism could forfeit Olympic place

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN BARCELONA

THE Princess Royal was yesterday at the centre of a dispute over the future of the equestrian events at the Olympic Games. Maj Malcolm Wallace, the British equestrian team manager, attacked reports that the sport may be under threat as an Olympic event and said that the Princess would lead a "most spirited defence" against its omission. Equestrian events have been part of the Olympics since 1912.

The Princess, who competed in the three-day event at the 1976 Games, is president of the International Equestrian Federation and, as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), would be responsible for arguing against a change in the programme.

Although it has been suggested that equestrianism may be one of a number of sports to be removed, it is the language reportedly used by Dick Pound, a member of the IOC's executive board, which will disturb its supporters. The dispute could also affect Manchester's chances of hosting the 2000 Games. As president of the British Olympic Association (BOA), the Princess will be less influential if her sport is excluded.

Pound is quoted as saying: "It probably costs £5m to £6m to prepare the three-day event course for one day. All the horse-owners want is a horse that wins a gold medal — then they sell it and make a fortune." He is also reported as saying that the best riders could not win without a good horse and that "the best horse could carry a dog with it."

Maj Wallace said yesterday: "If he did make those comments then I find them very offensive and untrue. I found it extraordinary and disgraceful that someone in such a high position and someone

whose views on sport are generally respected should say that sort of thing." He termed the words as a "tremendous generalisation. Some horses are sold but many are not. A number of people virtually bankrupt themselves to get to the Olympic Games and have to sell the horse afterwards to recover their money."

"I find it strange that the IOC should be complaining about people making money out of the sport because one of their philosophies is to make money out of the Games."

The British team manager expected that the Princess would launch "the most spirited campaign to ensure that our sport is not swept away without good reason."

Pound said that although he did not want to preempt the IOC's Programme Commission, which is making recommendations to the executive board, other sports were in danger. They include modern pentathlon, fencing and Greco-Roman wrestling.

Last month, Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the IOC, said: "We need to modernise the Games. There are sports which can be brought in and sports in the Games which are out of date."

There will be no decision before 1994 and the first time that a new sport could be added to the programme would be in 2000. Among the sports which may be brought into the Games are triathlon, golf and water skiing, which are perceived to be more widely practiced in the world.

If football were to be ejected from the world governing body, has said it would mount an under-23 World Cup. The Olympic tournament in Barcelona has been plagued by poor attendances, and FIFA has criticised the organisers of bad management and weak marketing.

Athletes pass the test

More than 1,000 competitors in Barcelona have been tested for drugs and cleared, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) revealed yesterday. Michele Verdier, an IOC spokesman, said 1,049 tests had been carried out at random and on medal-winners. All had been negative, including those after the men's 100 metres final on Saturday.

Verdier said a total of more than 1,800 tests would be carried out.

Cantering to gold

Germany continued their domination of the dressage event when they won the team contest yesterday by 482 points. Their riders, led by the defending champion, Nicole Uphoff, on Rembrandt, filled the first four individual places.

The Dutch took the silver medal and the United States won the bronze. Britain, lying third overnight, dropped to

seventh after tense performances from Laura Fry and Carol Parsons. The only Briton to qualify for the individual contest tomorrow was Carl Hester, on Giorgione.

Back on parade

The traditional athletes' parade at the closing ceremony on Sunday will take place after all. A spokesman for the German team said his country and at least seven others had complained about the decision to abandon the parade, and that a small delegation would be allowed to march behind the flag-bearers. But a British team official said the concession had come too late for many competitors. "There's that many people going home because there's no real closing ceremony to look forward to, that it will probably be a very small march indeed," he said.

About time

Ireland secured two boxing medals — their first for 12 years — in the space of an hour when Michael Carruth, the welterweight, and the bantamweight, Wayne McCullough, reached the quarter-finals with points victories.

Grindley runs out of obscurity and into final

FROM DAVID POWELL

DAVID Grindley broke the five-year-old British 400 metres record here last night to run Roger Black out of the Olympic final. Running in the second semi-final, the 19-year-old from Wigan took 0.03sec off the record set by Derek Redmond in the 1987 world championships.

"I am too tired to express my feelings," Grindley said as he came off the track, which seemed perfectly reasonable. Timed at 44.47sec, he is the second youngest member of the British team and had outrun Black, the world championship silver medal winner from last year.

Redmond hardly needed any more bad news. Having looked outstanding in the

opening two rounds, he pulled up clutching his right hamstring after 150 metres of the first semi-final. His distress was barely covered by world television as he hopped down his lane, tears streaming, after the other competitors had finished.

Steve Lewis, of the United States, won the first semi-final, but it was the second one that brought the house down. Quincy Watts broke the 24-year-old Olympic record with 43.71sec, the second fastest of all time.

Unexpectedly, Britain also has a representative in the women's 400 metres final, to be held, like the men's, tomorrow. Phyllis Smith, like Grindley from Wigan, ran a personal best of 50.40sec.

In the opening round of the

1,500 metres, Matthew Yates and Kevin McKay qualified for the semi-finals, to be run on Thursday, but Steve Crabb was eliminated. Yates decided only 20 minutes before his heat that he would run and it needed Frank Dick, Britain's director of coaching, to convince him.

Yates, the European indoor champion, has been trying to regain his fitness after a viral infection caught early in June. "I was not going to run but Frank persuaded me to go out there," Yates said. "I have had so much self-doubt these past few weeks. Norman Poole [Britain's national coach for middle distance] got worried when I ran to the toilet — he thought I was trying to escape."

"I told him he has been working all season for this and he should not waste the chance," Dick said. It proved the right decision because Yates had his best run since his problems began, and whatever happens now he should be applauded for giving it a go. However, he did not look like he would progress much further, taking the last of five qualifying places in his heat.

Like Yates, Noureddine Morceli, the world champion, has had to contend with an interruption to his training, losing 45 days early in the season because of a groin pain. In recent races he has looked out of sorts, but showed no discomfort yesterday, winning Yates's heat in 3min 37.98sec to the Briton's 3:38.73.

McKay, too, took the last qualifying position from his heat. David Kibet, with 3:36.32, ran the fastest time of the round and McKay followed in 3:37.39. McKay remains confident he can reach the final in his first senior international championship.

Crabb, 28, may have run his last championship. "I think that has put the final nail in the coffin," he said. "I will have to think seriously about whether to carry on." He finished ninth in his heat in 3:41.00. "I'm not making any excuses, I'm just not good enough."

This was Crabb's second Olympics. Before the 1988 Games he had run 3:33.95, but the German is not as high speed as he used to be; his best

this season is 3:36.83. He has been held back by exercise-induced asthma. "But I wasn't feeling cheery at all today," he added.

Kris Akabusi progressed to the semi-finals of the 400 metres hurdles, to be held tomorrow, with a best win in 48.98sec. He will need to be under 48 seconds to win a medal, but said that he was only scratching the surface yesterday; that, because he had run the first half relaxed, he had been chopping his stride.

Max Robertson pulled up when he thought a hurdle from an adjacent lane was about to fall into his. But it was a dreadful miscalculation; his path remained clear and Robertson walked off the track in disbelief at what he had done.

Simon Terry, an 18-year-old self-employed roofer, heralded the cause of the Great British underdog yesterday, when he won the bronze medal in the 70 metres archery, Britain's first individual medal in the sport for 84 years.

Ranked twentieth after the elimination stage, he beat the defending Olympic champion to qualify for the semi-final, and only the world champion could stop him going further at the Camp de Tir Amb Arc in the Hebron Valley.

Not since the success of Lotie Dod and her brother, William, in London in 1908 had an individual Briton stood on the Olympic medal rostrum for archery, though the British men's team was third in Seoul.

The contrast between Lotie Dod and her brother, William, in London in 1908 had an individual Briton stood on the Olympic medal rostrum for archery, though the British men's team was third in Seoul.

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Terry earns unlikely bronze

FROM CRAIG LORD IN BARCELONA

Simon Terry, an 18-year-old self-employed roofer, heralded the cause of the Great British underdog yesterday, when he won the bronze medal in the 70 metres archery, Britain's first individual medal in the sport for 84 years.

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Silencing the torrent from Torrence

OF COURSE everybody deplores drug taking, don't they? Even so, the way of the mark can be uncomfortable.

Gwen Torrence's accusations after she came fourth that two of the three medal-winners in the women's 100-metre final had taken drugs have brought some dusty replies from her rivals — and not just from the two runners she was finishing.

"I told her today 'you're a hypocrite'," Jamaica's Julie Cuthbert, who came second, said yesterday. "If you're going to point fingers, call names."

Cuthbert was not mollified by being assured that Torrence didn't mean her. And her team-mate, Merlene Ottey, was equally unhappy with Torrence's contribution. "I was happy to see Irina Privalova get the bronze medal," Ottey said. "I didn't want Gwen to get it. She's just jealous, she's a sore loser."

Privalova and the winner, Gail Devers, were the two runners accused by Torrence,

who made similar accusations against Katrin Krabbe at the 1991 world championships.

Nice theory

This column yesterday suggested that Rafael Lozano's win over Eric Griffin could only be explained as a home town computer decision. We were wrong — the boxing computer is German — and so is most of the equipment according to an angry French trainer, Sauveur Acquaviva, after his lightweight, Julien Lorcy, lost to Marco Rudolph.

"This scandal must be exposed," Acquaviva said. "Against a German it is impossible to win because he is protected. The computers are German. The gloves, headguards and all the other equipment are German. It's just a big commercial operation, and looking at the make-up of the international association, it's easy to see the link. The judges are influ-

enced by the hold the Germans have on the sport."

In the next fight Michael Carruth, of Ireland, beat Andreas Ott, the German world welterweight silver medal-winner.

Party policy

It's not all work — especially for the swimmers who have stayed on for the remainder of the Games. Parties in the Olympic village are rocking through the night, to the dismay of athletes who are still competing. Josep Miguel Abad, the chief executive of the organising committee of the Games said last night that he was concerned about maintenance of discipline in the village.

"We now have more athletes in the village not competing than athletes who are," he said. "This means it is increasingly difficult for the staff to maintain the proper

ambiance that is needed for the benefit of competitors who have still to perform."

"I have told Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president, that in my opinion free accommodation for the duration of the Games is not a good idea for the future. Two years ago, the average period of competition for an athlete being six days, we had recommended a maximum of 12 days free accommodation. I think 18 days, which we've persuaded to allow, is too much. By the second week, it is not producing the right atmosphere."

Cover up

Party time, part two. Athletes were surprised to find that they had to pay for condoms at the disco. Now, after complaining that they never had the right change at the crucial moment — you know how it is — there are free condoms available on a 24-hour basis from the chemists in the Olympic village.

Dream target

It's not easy for the "Dream Team", who are finding the weight of expectation getting to them. Or so Michael Jordan would have us believe. The team had two targets. Jordan explained. The first, "to come over and show how powerful we were", has been achieved. But what do they do for an encore?

"We have to re-energise ourselves, to focus on why we're here," Jordan said. "What would put a cherry on the top? Scoring 200 points?"

Manager talk

Bernie Cotton, the British hockey team manager, has clearly learnt from his counterparts in football and cricket. Micky Stewart or Graham Taylor would have been proud of yesterday's quote. "Until we conceded the fourth goal, we outplayed the Aussies, we really did," Cotton said. Really?



Terry: battler



PARENTS p5
Guns — the
boy with his
finger on the
trigger



LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY AUGUST 4 1992

MEDIA p7

Quinn — the
man with his
finger on the
schedule



The face that launched a thousand theses

To the public she is just a star who enjoys wearing underwear on stage. To an academic she is the perfect subject for an essay, doctorate or book. Kate Muir ponders the latest tome

The great thinkers of the New World sit around eating tortilla chips and watching pop videos, just like ordinary teenagers. The difference is that while the teenagers consign such information to their mental trash cans, the academics feel it necessary to consign it to their word processors.

So it is that a significant piece of American scholarship is about to arrive in Britain, entitled *The Madonna Connection: Representational Politics, Subcultural Identities, and Cultural Theory*. Such a title would be disturbing enough if merely applied to the Virgin Mary, but this vast body of learned prose relates entirely to a pop star who rose to fame by wearing her underwear on the outside.

The step from pin-up to the pages of a dozen doctoral theses was a foregone conclusion, given the growing peculiarity of academe. The essay collection is the first tangible result of the outbreak of Madonna analysis across America in hitherto respectable universities. Madonna panels have already met, dates for "Madonnathon" conferences are being pencilled in, and it can only be a matter of time before the creation of the Material Girl Chair in Madonna Studies.

Philosophers, semioticians, musicologists, mass communication professors, and feminist scholars are all racing to appropriate the pop idol. Lecture attendances are up, and academic journals and publishing houses are learning that putting Madonna on the cover doubles sales.

They are not afraid to plunge in where *Smash Hits* has gone before — from an "anti-and-porn" point of view, one scholar considers Madonna's rocket-fronted bras are a sign of postfeminist liberation. Others do a note-by-note analysis of her music and find quite unexpected depths, and still more debate her violation of middle-class decency.

Thus we have an examination of "Images of Race and Religion" in the video *Like a Prayer*; "Seduction, Control and the Search for Authenticity" in the film *In Bed with Madonna*; and "Madonna and the Politics of Queer Sex" in the video *Justify My Love*. An infinitely adaptable figure, she becomes the Metatextual Madonna, the Freudian Madonna, the Sadeian Madonna, the Baudrillardian Madonna, the Postmodern Madonna, the Postfeminist Madonna, the Poststructuralist Madonna and any other theory the scholar cares to post.

The Nation, a leftist political magazine, recently accused these academic wannabes of "attempting to counteract their own marginality by making desperate forays into popular culture". That said, these forays are highly entertaining, and may be of greater importance than the scoffers realise.

The misunderstood contributors to the book are confident that their great work will be recognised

eventually. "By dismissing Madonna as a suitable object of academic study, you are dismissing all those who follow her — mostly young women," says Lisa Henderson, assistant professor of mass communications at Pennsylvania State University, who writes on Madonna and homosexuality in the book.

"You are excluding most of Western youth and the way they see the world. She has been wildly popular for close to ten years. Stupidish critics should realise that the attention is justified in terms of the sheer numbers influenced by her. She is an extremely powerful producer of popular culture."

Laurie Schube, a lecturer at the University of Denver, says her

It can only be
a matter of
time before
the creation of
the Material
Girl Chair in
Madonna
Studies

Madonna classes are some of the most popular on the communications course, and always elicit huge debate. She has a fondness for anything "disrespected, suspected, or vilified by so many. If there is so much controversy, there must be something worth investigating, something which reveals the social world's current anxieties, pressures and desires."

Let us browse for a moment through Ms Schube's essay which begins *The Madonna Connection* and is entitled "A Sacred Monster in her Prime: Audience Construction of Madonna as low-Other". This is basically about why so many people hate Madonna so much. She is designated "base, gross, freakish, marginal, abject — pushed down into a low place, and pushed away as 'Other'... to some critics, Madonna is the lowest form of popular culture, and promotes debased and unsophisticated taste, thus undermining high cultural standards."

Ms Schube decided to study Madonna, first through popular discourse and second, through an analysis of a letter-writing contest sponsored by *The Rocky Mountain News*. In the contest, readers were asked to complete one of two statements about the singer in 25 words or less. One was "I think Madonna is a supremely gifted and talented artist who deserves more media attention as well as the Nobel Prize for body chemistry because..." The alternative sentence was: "I think Madonna should be forced to work third shift for below the minimum wage in a fish-processing plant for the rest of her life because..."

The sixty or so readers who finished the fish sentence disliked Madonna in four different ways: for being trivial and commercial; socially irresponsible; a grotesque

vamp; and anti-feminist. (No one suggested the words "because... she can't sing".)

Where, precisely, does this analysis lead? To the discovery that the Madonna phenomenon is all-encompassing, even for those staidly against her.

Ms Schube considers that those who "hate" the star often do so because they want to oppose what they perceive as her universal acceptance. "To be honest," confides Ms Schube, "I love her. I'm a big fan, and I'm pushing forty."

Her inescapable conclusion is that Madonna is inescapable.

The singer is also all things to all people. Elsewhere in the collection, scholars argue that Madonna is to blacks what black jazz musicians are to whites, in her ability to cross cultural boundaries. She is a role model for both virgins and temptresses — singing about one while acting like the other, says E. Ann Kaplan in her "Persecution, Repression or Subversion?" essay. Ms Henderson promotes the theory that the singer is a heroine of the homosexual community in her essay "Madonna and the Politics of Queer Sex" because the video *Justify My Love* crosses sexual boundaries. The video consists of Madonna and a cast of various sexes generally posing around clad in little more than their leather outfits. MTV banned it in case it corrupted their teenage audience; the gay press celebrated it.

Some considered the sexuality shown in *Justify My Love* to be so ambiguous that it was not gay at all, or as the essay puts it: "Postmodernism's playful indeterminacy becomes gay activism's short shrift." But Madonna may be more interested in her bank account than being an ever-changing postmodern icon. Later Ms Henderson says that "such plasticity also retains the greatest audience and thus the greatest profit, a multiple persona/multiple market approach". But she concludes that the singer's work can be considered useful because it puts homosexual issues on the politically powerful ground of the popular.

If the Madonna created in the heads of academics existed she would have to carry Foucault in her handbag and have Derrida at her bedside just in case. In fact she is more likely to be versed in costume changes than cultural theory. Sensibly, she conceals her true self.

The thing about Madonna, says Ms Schube, "is that her stuff really lets us show our stuff."

"Radical interpretability" is the vogue term for this. And it is fun. Take Melanie Morton's decon-



Intellectual icon: if the Madonna created in the heads of academics existed she would have to carry Foucault in her handbag

structionist analysis of the song "Express Yourself". Apparently, Madonna subverts the domination of patriarchal, racist and capitalist constructions simply by the way she roars "self" in the phrase "express yourself".

In her paper from the University of Minnesota, friskily titled "Don't go for Second Sex, Baby", Ms Morton writes: "The word 'self' clues us in on some of these meditations on the constitution of a de-centred subjectivity. Self is first sung on 'G.I. Inter' on F sharp, moving to F natural, then on G, moving back to F sharp and lastly 'self' is sung on F sharp to F. The word as well as the concept gets divided and put in motion, articulating agency through positions which remain partial and temporary."

Ms Morton is not afraid to dig deep. The black cat which can be seen in the background of a few scenes in the video of *Express Yourself* is not merely a decorative moggie, but a "visual pun: a black pussy, that represents condensed and overdetermined notions of the

object of white supremacy and of the sexual, animal and female elements".

Consuming too much of this stuff quite wears out the reader's vocabulary. Mixing cultural theories, like mixing drinks, gives the brain a nasty hangover. Who would have thought that that nice Madonna Louise Ciccone from a middle-class suburb of Detroit would become an adventure playground for intellectuals? Perhaps it is intentional. As her brother Christopher Ciccone once put it: "My sister is her own masterpiece", and although no comment was to be heard from the subject of this book, her office supplied publicity photographs.

Madonna is not the first cult hero to become a pet subject of academe. America already possesses the textbook *Bond and Beyond*, an interpretation of 007 through his books and films; and a similar tome on *The Many Lives of the Batman*. The disease is everywhere. Two weeks ago the *New York Times* devoted its

highly-respected opinion page to whether *Batman Returns* was anti-Semitic, a controversy solved only when the film's Jewish scriptwriter wrote in to explain about parody.

Even those, in the W.F. Deedes and *Oldie* mode, who affect ignorance of youth culture, secretly know a great deal about Madonna. Like the Beatles, like Elvis, she transcends the pop-teen barrier, and is a symbol of the materialist 1980s in the same way the Beatles defined the anti-materialist 1960s.

Despite its present ubiquity, cultural theory still gets a bad rap. Cathy Schwichtenberg, editor of *The Madonna Connection*, says: "Most of the snottiness comes from the press rather than the academic community. I can't help but think that's a kind of elitism on their part — they want discussion of Madonna to remain their domain."

The possibility that any scholar-

ship might be as lightweight as the object it studies is ignored as much as possible. Ms Schwichtenberg does, however, make a passing mention of the criticism that "With Madonna, a cultural studies analysis that already runs the risk of lapsing into banality is suddenly confronted by a subject considered by many to be the utmost in banality itself."

Sensibly, she is not going to let that stand in the way of what may be this year's academic bestseller.

©The Madonna Connection will be distributed in Britain by Westview Press at the end of the year.

TOMORROW

Black holes: the gaps in Derek Raymond's life

Death knows no justice for a picture of health

If you could have seen me and Tony Evans together 18 years ago, you would not have bet that he would die before me. You would have taken him for a man who was tending his life with reverent care. You might have seen me as one who was throwing it away as far and fast as it would go.

For a couple of years, Evans and I were often paired together, as photographer and writer. We spent a lot of time with each other, in travel and in hotels, all over Britain and sometimes abroad. Tony was half a dozen years older than me. He had already made his name as one of the country's most original and polished photographers. I was just starting out.

We made a pair of contrasts. He was very bald; I was over-haired, was steady, careful, diligent and — er, I was all over the place. He chewed alcohol, caffeine and — I went to bed early and — his wife. I did as much of opposite as I could get my — is on. For company's sake, he — I travel with me in the — in my black coffee. While I — ing my face with plastic from — e setting out a spread of his

own apples and water and bread. If I was toxically over-stimulated, Tony was stimulating. He never preached but he knew that the ways of the world were at odds with the nature of the earth because he had made a deep and careful study. Among our contemporaries, the fashion of the moment was red; but Tony was an original and erudite green. He talked wittily and convincingly about the damage done to individuals and the earth by pesticides and fertilisers. He was the first person I ever heard to say that motorway cuttings ought to be left unknown for wild flowers to grow. If a train stopped, he would be looking out to photograph flowers on the embankment.

Last week I discovered that Tony Evans was dead. A visitor to my house spotted the photograph Tony gave me and my wife at Christmas 1977, when the elms were diseased and dying. Tony's elegant portrait of the dead tree and a brilliantly indifferent moon went with us on the walls of three homes. My visitor, also a professional photographer, looked at it and said: "What a marvellous picture. Isn't it a pity he's gone?"

Then he saw my face and said: "Oh, you didn't know?" I didn't know anything. I hadn't seen or heard from Tony since

MID LIFE

Neil Lyndon on
dying before
your time



1984. Nothing more than time and distance and separate working lives came between us but they were more than enough to ensure that he should pass away without my knowing that he had been ill for years. Several times a year, I would look at the photograph, be given us and think, "Must get in touch with Tony." Never did. Too late now. It's not just the mournful too late, like the raven at the window,

which are nagging me now. I am also unsettled to add up the numbers of my friends and contemporaries who have died in the last two years and find that three out of the four of them lived lives of blameless cleanliness, abstinence and care (the only excess which could be charged against the fourth was that he sometimes liked more wine than was good for him). When I met them, each of those three was as much of a walking advertisement for the kind of personal health regime which Mrs Bottomley advocates as is Mrs Bottomley herself. My friends' eyes and their wives' bright, their skin and hair (if they had any) shone. Carrying no surplus pounds, their step was light and their bodies were supple and strong both for work and for games. They made us feel like slobs, but we would say: "They're going to live until they're 100 years old; and they deserve to. They've earned it."

They all died after the most miserable and painful ordeals of illness. I don't, alas, know very much about the years of Tony's illness but my other friends were wasted by months in hospital, by sickening treatments which dulled their eyes and blighted their hair, and by long spells of recuperation during which they were too weak to

move, or work. None of them seemed or complained.

I am not complaining now. We all understand that Mrs Bottomley and the government's medical and actuarial servants are working upon sound average figures and a reliable demographic picture to support their policies. Nobody doubts, I imagine, that we should all, on average, live longer and require less medical care and treatment, during our active years, if each of us conducted our lives with the same care and understanding which Tony Evans applied to his own. A society in which nobody smokes, nobody drinks, nobody eats meat and everybody lifts weights is bound, on average, to be healthier. If you happen not to be average and not to get the average allotment of years allowed by the Central Bureau of Population Control, it's just bad luck.

Nobody should expect illness and death to be fair, discriminatory, judicious. If it were any of those things, we could be sure that somebody who was recklessly looking for it would get it sooner than somebody who is doing everything prudent to avoid it. If you had told me, 18 years ago, that Tony Evans would die before me, I should have thought it was a joke. I wish that he could enjoy it.



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can make a wife
feel like a widow.

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SPRINT 150

Galleries: Andrew Gibbon Williams on a show emphasising painter John Bellany's importance in post-war Scottish art

Back from his brush with death

Whenever a retrospective exhibition of a living artist's work is staged, curators emphasise that their selection is in no way definitive: the implication is that the artist's best is yet to come. In the case of those nearing the end of their careers this is mere politeness. For those in mid-career there is a point to the assertion.

The painter John Bellany has just celebrated his fiftieth birthday. But even were this fact thought too insignificant to merit Scotland's leading post-war Expressionist a major show at the Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, there are two even more valid justifications for this tribute from Glasgow.

First, there is Bellany's very survival: the artist nearly failed to reach his half-century. Without a liver transplant a few years ago he would not have been around to mark the event. Second, his brush with death initiated an intense period of creativity. Since his recovery he has produced a handful of works unsurpassed in terms of conviction by any comparable painter of recent years.

Bellany is an easy artist to enjoy but a difficult one to appreciate properly. The problem is that his relishing of bright colour and energetic paint textures can mislead the lazy viewer into superficial contemplation. Nor does his pictorial language present any obstacle. Bellany was born into the East Lothian fishing community of Port Seton. Ever since he painted his first convincing pictures in the Sixties, a variety of fish and molluscs, boats and seaside paraphernalia has comprised the bulk of his imagery.

Yet Bellany uses these attractive forms to tackle the big issues: his concerns are man's inhumanity and the mysteries of existence and, more particularly, of sex territory traditionally regarded in English art circles as the domain of foreigners. The first of the three large

galleries devoted to Bellany at Kelvingrove is hung with an extensive selection of works from the Seventies. These are not the first which should be considered a flowering of his mature talent. By the early Sixties Bellany was painting ambitious pictures of maritime subjects which owe something to Léger, and one of these has been put on view as a point of reference in the exhibition. But the Seventies works are the first in which Bellany strikes a disturbing note of modern Gothic horror which has remained his hallmark.

Out of the stark shadows of these pictures victims of hard-to-fathom horrors beckon our sympathy from what appear to be domestic interiors which have been invaded by the Freudian stuff of nightmares. In *Woman With Skull* a bedraggled bare-breasted female has been pinned to a mattress by the mammoth triangular fish, its tail rising between her thighs.

During this period the influence of the German Expressionists Beckmann and, to a lesser extent, Kirchner governs Bellany's style. Trained in Edinburgh where the city's art college was still revered for the rigour with which it taught students to use the pencil, Bellany employs his considerable graphic talent to a similar, uncompromisingly savage effect. But he transmogrifies his Scottish background and personal experience into spine-chilling meditations on the universal human predicament.

Bellany has always favoured the triptych format with its connotations of Catholic religious art, and he takes full advantage of its ancient power in his most visionary creation of the early Seventies, a work called *Journey to the End of Night*. This is Bellany at his most enthralling. Three mysterious rituals are taking place. Centre stage, beneath a sacred ring of zoomorphic totems, another supine female endures the



Before his operation: in *Self-portrait*, 1987, by Bellany, the artist (left) dangles a pocket watch in a theatrical reference to fugitive time

embrace of a giant lobster. On the side wings, figures resembling druid priests prepare sacrifices.

Forming the pivot of the show is a large group of watercolours and several oil paintings inspired directly by the artist's medical crisis. In a 1987 pre-operation self-portrait (reproduced above) incorporated into a complex composition dominated by an exotic-looking dinner party, the artist dangles a pocket watch in a theatrical reference to fugitive time. Post-surgery, Bellany paints himself

jaundiced and emaciated in a series of uncannily reminiscent of Van Gogh's tortured essays in self-analysis.

Three years ago, when these pictures were exhibited in an exhibition trumpeted as "John Bellany - A Renaissance" at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, they created, out of context, a moving impression indeed. Now, however, save a dynamic representation of the artist as Prometheus, this introspective body of work has been eclipsed by the more fluent efforts of a man glad to be alive.

The brilliant final group of large pictures overpowers in the manner of a symphony's stirring final movement. Amazingly, they have all been painted with vivid fervour over the past 24 months, and in them Bellany has returned to the matter of his early life in the Scottish fishing village. Now, however, he is able to imbue it with a humanity sharpened by his near-death experience.

As compositions they are simpler than his previous works, consisting for the most part of tableaux of fisher-folk confronting the spectator against the backdrops of their

working environments. There are *Fishgutters* and *Finnan Smokers*, and, in a picture taking its title from Lewis Grassie Gibbon's nostalgic novel, *Sunset Song*, the artist and his immediate family are silhouetted against the harbour at Port Seton. Gone is the self-conscious *Anger* which previously undermined the originality of Bellany's vision. In its place there reigns a wholly optimistic acceptance of fate.

John Bellany: *A Long Night's Journey into Day*, at the Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow (041-357 3929) until August 30

ARTS BRIEF

Tyro power

YOUTH theatres from Glasgow to Newcastle to Stratford East to Enniskillen are to take part in a 24-hour frenzy of dramatic activity as part of the European Arts Festival. The National Association of Youth Theatres is co-ordinating the project for September 25 and 26, and photographer Amanda Harman is to record rehearsals and some performances of ten of the companies for a touring exhibition to be seen in Britain and Europe. The performances, ranging from plays written, rehearsed and performed in the 24 hours, to cabaret, will all have European themes. So far 200 groups have said they will take part, and the figure is still rising.

City berth

ONE of Britain's busiest touring opera companies is making its debut appearance at the Barbican next week with three productions of three of the most popular operas. Travelling Opera, the company set up by Peter Knapp in 1986 to meet the growing demand for live opera, will present *The Marriage of Figaro*, *La Bohème* and *The Barber of Seville*, which sets Rossini's classic in a *Fawlty Towers*-style hotel in Seville in the Thirties. The six-day season will run from next Tuesday, August 11, to Sunday, August 16.

Last chance...

THE Serpentine Gallery has staged a powerful exhibition which confirms Antoni Tàpies as, in *Times* critic Richard Cork's phrase, "Spain's most distinguished living painter". This show, which offers 22 paintings from collections in Europe and America, is confined to the work of the Fifties and Sixties, when Tàpies was a leader of the European avant-garde. For a taste of just how uncompromising an artist he was, pay a visit to Kensington Gardens, London W2, before the exhibition closes on Sunday (071-402 6075).

JAZZ RECORDS

Veteran vivacity

HUMPH strikes again, this time in the unlikely company of Bernard Stanley Acker Bilk, better known as Acker. Forever associated with the middle-of-the-road instrumental "Strangers on the Shore", the West Country clarinetist can still be found playing his trade on the club circuit. The last time I saw him in action he was still wearing his trademark striped waistcoat. He and Humphrey Lyttelton have frequently appeared on live double-bills.

At Sundown, issued on Lyttelton's Calligraph label (CLGCD-027), is said to be the first time the two men have worked together in the studio.

Well past his seventieth birthday, Lyttelton still plays with exceptional grace and consistency. His thoughtful choice of material - picking out tunes such as Becker's "Southern Sunset" - and the contrast between his urbane trumpet and Bilk's knotted clarinet solos keeps the quietest bouncing along. Anyone who, like me, thought that this brand of traditional jazz had long ago been reduced to a string of backslapping clichés, will have to think again.

More welcome still, for those who prefer Lyttelton's mainstream work, is *Swinging Scorpio* (Black Lion BLCD 760165), a date with the Basic saxophonist Buddy Tate, and originally issued under the title *Kansas City Woman*. Recorded in 1974 using arrangements by another old Basic hand, the late Buck Clayton, the session evokes the roar of a mini-big band.

The two albums have an air of spontaneity and adventure, two elements missing from Hugh Masekela's *Beatin' Around De Bush* (Novus PD90686). Masekela's previous fusions of jazz, pop and African melodies have proved highly successful despite the reservations of purists. This time the loudest noise is of Masekela scraping the bottom of the barrel as the band chugs through cover versions of "Rock With You" and Joe Jackson's "Steppin' Out".

Ray Charles' concert at the Festival Hall this month could hardly have been described as a marathon. In *LA* (Traditional Line TL-1313) a scappily recorded performance from 1964 is even shorter, adding up to a miserly 40 minutes. Caveat emptor. Still, five minutes of Charles re-shaping "Margie", "I Got a Woman" or an extemporised "Makin' Whoopee" are preferable to five hours of lesser performers.

CLIVE DAVIS

NEW YORK THEATRE: Matt Wolf on new black drama and Jamie James (below) on a revived musical

Not reading the riot act

If race is the dominant issue in American politics, then the New York theatre deserves credit this season for reflecting a nation's concerns. On Broadway and off, the theatre is examining the rifts and fissures of a country that seems more divided than ever. With unrest becoming the urban norm it was perhaps inevitable that the theatre would tap into that restlessness, drawing from it an energy that may not heal a fractured populace but is at least giving the disenfranchised a voice.

London is currently seeing one such play in John Guare's *Six Degrees of Separation*, in which race is just one of the many obstacles in a society pitting rich against poor, parents against children, the spiritual world against the material one. But New York now offers an encouraging breadth of shows, all of them written and performed by blacks that transcend the specific event in a way which rarely happens on the London stage.

This phenomenon was brought into sharp focus recently when I joined a largely black crowd at Broadway's Walter Kerr Theatre to see August Wilson's *Two Trains Running*. The size of the audience was an immediate testament to Wilson's New York appeal since few that evening were choosing to go to the theatre, preferring to stay home riveted to live television coverage of the riots tearing apart Los Angeles that night, in response to the Rodney King verdict. Manhattan, meanwhile, was in its own

anxious state of calm, sure that at any minute Los Angeles' problems might become New York's own.

As it happened, the disturbances elsewhere mostly passed by New York, exactly as they pass by the black community on stage in *Two Trains Running*. In Wilson's play, set in a Pittsburgh diner during a Malcolm X rally in 1969, the characters keep anticipating a social cataclysm which never directly touches them. The world around them may be in turmoil, but inside Memphis Lee's restaurant, it's another day of casual chat as usual. Yet the locals' talk is anything but idle, and as they sit chewing the fat, conversation turns to the inadequacy of a justice system which a Sini Valley jury 23 years later would expose as a travesty.

"There ain't no justice for the black man. Why you think they got 'em blindfolded?" asks Holloway (Roscoe Lee Brown), the play's resident pundit, referring to the traditional statutory image of the judiciary, eyes tightly bound; that particular audience on May 1 could only chuckle appreciatively, grateful that the concerns of the theatre were beginning to accord with their own.

Off-Broadway that same night, the Joseph Papp Public Theatre was closed, one of several venues that had sent employees home fearing violence in the streets. This delayed by a night the first preview of Anna Devereaux Smith's astonishing solo show, *Fires in the Mirror*: Brooklyn, Crown Heights, and Oth-

er Identities, itself born out of a true-life racial conflagration much closer to home than the Los Angeles riots. An associate professor of drama at Stanford University, Smith takes as her starting point the events in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn last summer in which Jews faced off against blacks for four days of violent confrontations.

The catalyst for the rage was the killing of seven-year-old Gavin Cato, a black boy hit by a car that was part of a Jewish motorcade. Three hours later, a crowd of angry blacks stabbed and mortally wounded Yankel Rosenbaum, a Hasidic scholar visiting from Australia. In interviews with nearly 30 people, ranging from the activist Reverend Al Sharpton to Gavin Cato's grieving father and Yankel Rosenbaum's barrister brother, Smith has devised a theatrical tapestry that both recreates the fury and comments upon it as well.

Yet Smith's goal is less to apportion blame - in her saddening scenario, the tragedy is everyone's loss - than to act as conduit for opinion. Alone on stage as she becomes the various people she spoke to, Smith shows an overwhelming gift for empathy that outshines even her mimicry. Indeed, one wonders what she might accomplish with her tape recorder on the streets of south-central Los Angeles that months of political rhetoric have been unable to effect.

On Broadway, meanwhile, Smith's champion, black writ-



Drawing black audiences: Larry Fishburne and Cynthia Martells in *Two Trains Running*, now on Broadway

er-director George C. Wolfe. As a hit musical with Jelly's *Last Jam*, a show whose self-hating anti-hero offers troubling proof that racism sometimes begins at home.

Collectively, these three evenings mark the American theatre's willingness to confront issues the mainstream British stage has shied away from. Even the recent South African import, *Sikulu*, a musical rooted in a struggle even more urgent than the one facing America today, relegated apartheid to the status of a nagging toothache: nothing, the show seemed to say, that

an energetic chorus line can't put right.

Still, one can imagine the seeds of a British counterpart. After all, when events transform an offstage world, can it be long before they transform the onstage one, as well?

MATT WOLF

Fires in the Mirror is at the Joseph Papp Public Theatre, 425 Lafayette Street, until August 16

Two Trains Running is at the Walter Kerr Theatre, 219 West 48th Street, until August 30

Jelly's *Last Jam* is running indefinitely at the Virginia Theatre, 245 West 52nd Street

father with comic flair. As Lizzie, Karen Zimba, who has appeared in the New York City Opera productions of *The Pajama Game*, *Candide* and *The Most Happy Fella*, was winning enough, but her voice sounded shrill over the irritating and unnecessary amplification system. Baritone Richard Muenz, a regular on Garrison Keillor's radio shows, portrayed the bland, handsome Sheriff File handsomely and blandly.

The stars of the evening were the dancers. Susan Stromman's choreography relied rather too heavily on the cliché of stomping male dancers throwing women over their shoulders, but the corps executed its part with gusto; one only wished that they had more numbers to perform. Broadway veteran Paul Gemignani conducted the colourful, jazz-inflected score with a deft touch.

JAMIE JAMES

TELEVISION REVIEW

Lobal warming?

Those of you who regard consciousness as something to worry about only when you are unscrewing the cap on the evening's third bottle of bourbon may not realise there is any controversy raging among scientists and philosophers about the nature of consciousness.

In *Mind Movies*, last night's edition of BBC 2's *Antenna* series, Daniel Dennett, a philosopher from America's Tufts University, tried to convince us that he had found a new way of looking at consciousness, a way which will help you realise that robots, and computers, can be conscious. But this theory is controversial and has meant overturning one of the most comfortable myths in the study of the mind.

You see, scientists and philosophers, says Dennett, still like to think there is "a special part of the brain responsible for consciousness" - which works by projecting, in some fashion, the contents of consciousness on to a sort of movie screen in the brain. The reason such an idea has stayed so popular must presumably be because that's exactly what consciousness *does* seem like, which is a very clever trick on the brain's part, because consciousness must have seemed like a movie even before movies were invented.

Dennett is not impressed with this feat. He thinks of the brain as a computer. He says humans function essentially the same way as computers: like fuzzy, parallel processors learning by experience. And if

you can think of the brain as a computer - albeit a very sophisticated wired-up computer - then, conversely, there is no reason why a computer cannot be conscious.

Dennett proposes a "multiple drafts model" of consciousness: rather than there being one element of the brain responsible for consciousness, the brain receives inputs from eyes, ears, and so on, and then processes these stimuli from different sources in different parts of the brain to create a changing image of consciousness. Many scientists are not convinced, so don't feel under pressure to agree. Mull it over, even if the idea of thinking about your brain with your brain seems a bit incestuous.

It may be unfair but, just as you judge a tailor by how he dresses, so you judge an egg-head by his eggs. Dennett may be a sharp philosopher but his mind tends to wander as a programme-maker. A scene in which he went yachting off the coast of Maine to illustrate some point about how the brain reads new information seemed particularly bemusing, unless the whole idea was to make us temporarily switch off our conscious minds.

One last thing. Dennett chairs a committee which is offering \$100,000 to the first computer which fools a panel of judges into thinking it is human. Anyone can fool a judge. I'll be more impressed if the winning computer is smart enough to get a bank manager to cash the cheque.

JOE JOSEPH

Heartwarming effort, even if less than a hot ticket

110 In The Shade
NY City Opera

and *Funny Girl*. Its quirky, understated style enjoyed only a middling success, but it has always had its adherents, who claim that it is one of the neglected gems of the Broadway stage. The production at the New York State Theater, thoroughly revised by the playwright and songwriters, makes a plausible case for the piece, though it suffers from an overlong first act, flabby dialogue, and staid staging.

The show tells the story of a dreary little town in the Midwest in the grip of a terrible drought. A sexy deflowered Starbuck arrives, claiming to be a rainmaker. He charms the whole town, especially Lizzie, a plain-jane who yearns for romance. Her father and brothers try to fix

her up with File, the town sheriff, a handsome, shy divorcee, but to no avail.

Starbuck has the villagers behaving like fools, howling at the sun and banging on drums to bring on the desperately-needed rain. In the second act, however, he is revealed to be a fugitive con man and in the finale, the sheriff comes to arrest him.

When Starbuck asks Lizzie to run away with him, the sheriff declares his own love for her. Old maid no more, Lizzie chooses a quiet life with the lawman. At last the rains come pouring down, an event

spectacularly created on the stage with an impressive water downpour.

As in previous New York City Opera musical productions, the cast was conspicuously more successful at singing than acting, though the show's platitudes and corpse humour do not demand great subtlety.

The most accomplished histrionic performance came from debutant David Aaron Baker, who projected boyish vigour and charm in the secondary role of Jimmy, Lizzie's dim-witted brother, and from Henderson Forsythe, a Tony award-winner on Broadway years ago in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, who played the old

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Robert Crampton survives Paris, or the Gate of Hell, and finds that a weekend of hitching in France is something he still enjoys

Travel by way of thumb



IN THE Musée d'Orsay in Paris is a sculpture in plaster by Rodin. It is a huge piece, fully 12 or more feet high, crammed with dozens of tortured figures, their bodies arched every which way in frozen torment. Rodin called this scene *Porte d'Enfer* — the Gate of Hell. If he had lived a century later, he might just as easily have called it *Le périphérique de Paris*. The figures would be hitch-hikers.

Anyone who has ever tried to hitch-hike out of the French capital around the infamous ringroad knows it can be difficult. For a start, you must know which metro to take (south is Porte d'Italie or Porte d'Orléans; east is Porte de Vincennes, north Porte de la Chapelle and west Porte de St Cloud or Porte Maillot). The drivers joining the *periphérique* are preoccupied with keeping themselves alive in the racing traffic, the police are unsympathetic (although hitching on the sliproads is legal) and the road signs require a degree in town planning to decode.

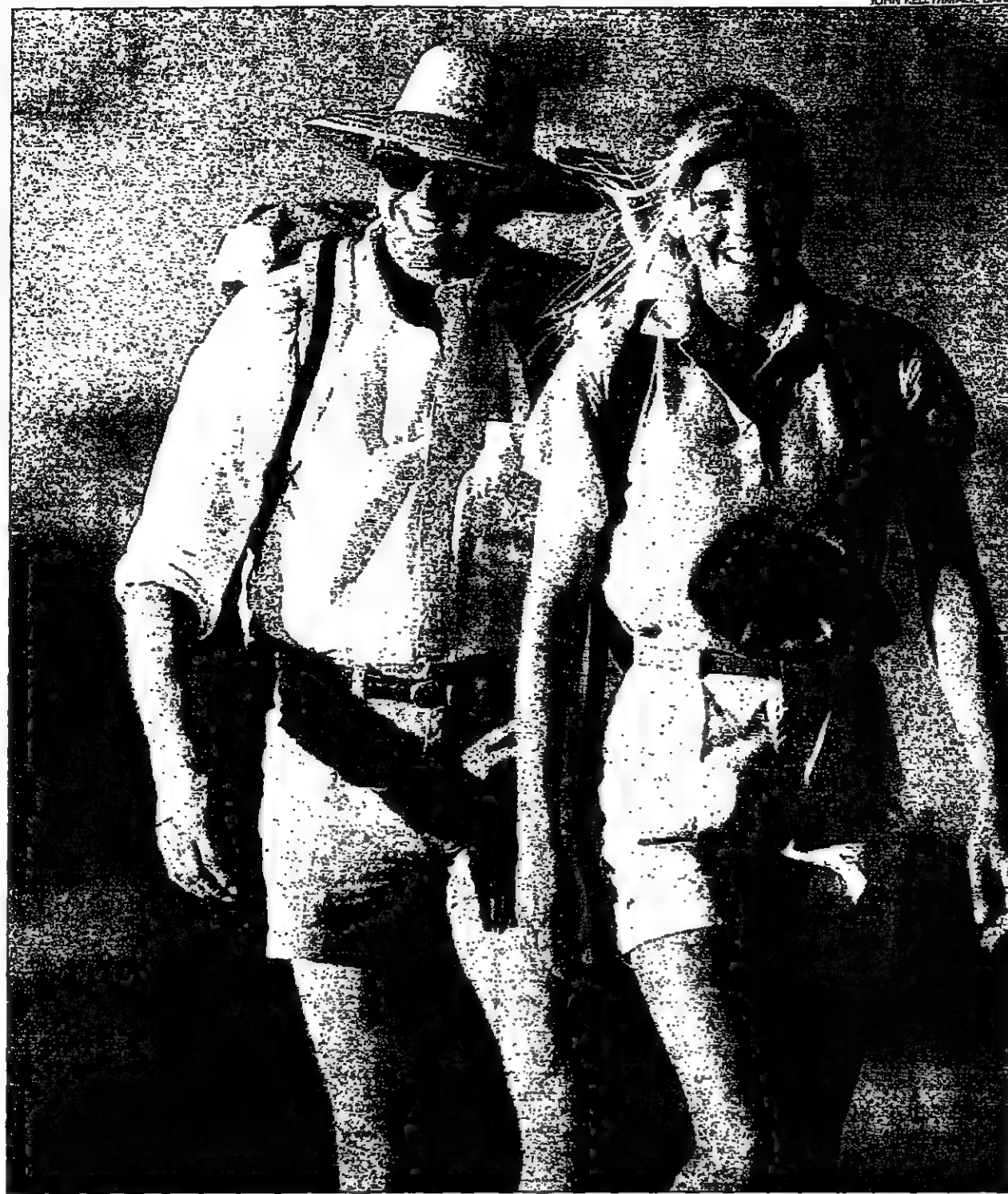
Channel ports and stick to the A roads. You can ask a fellow passenger on the ferry if they are going your way, and if you catch a lorry driver in England, you could cross for nothing in the passenger seat.

But my journey began in Paris and, forgetting my own advice, late last Sunday afternoon found me on a sliproad to the *periphérique* 300 yards from Porte Maillot. I was lucky. I had barely got my thumb out before a little Renault pulled up. The sole occupant was a woman. "Where to?" she asked. "West," I said. "Where?" "Rouen?" I replied, not really caring. "No, sorry. I'm just going round the ringroad." She drove off.

This incident nicely reheats an old hitchhiking chestnut: should you display a destination placard or not? In France, I favour a sign if I am on a serious got-to-get-there hitch, such as, say, Lyons to Calais with a boat to catch. If I'm pottering about, as I was on this occasion, then I don't bother. Besides, I had no marker pen, and you can't write "Normandy" on corrugated cardboard with a pencil.

Anyway, another car had stopped, a big Peugeot. "West?" I asked. "Yes," said the driver, a man in his mid-thirties. I got in. Nothing beats the feeling you get in the first few minutes of a lift: relief and exhilaration, and then a tremendous benevolence towards the driver and, less obviously, towards his car, which seems faster and more comfortable than any other vehicle you have ever come across. I looked at the green and white signs slipping by overhead: "Caen", "Rouen",

'I have never got a lift while facing away from the traffic'



On the road: but anyone who has tried to get out of Paris on the *periphérique* knows it isn't easy

"Cherbourg" and remembered how much I liked hitchhiking.

A guide to hitchhiking in France is not like a guide to walking or wine. It can be assumed, like beautiful scenery and underpriced vineyards, that hitchhiking is different: it is assumed to be something dangerous and unsavoury that students and soldiers do because they have to, not because they want to. If

you believe, as I do, that sometimes, in France at least, it is preferable to hitch, even if you can afford not to, you have to make a case.

By hitchhiking, you are getting to know a new and the French quickly and cheaply. You meet a lot of new people in an environment where you have to talk to them. A few are hopeless drunks in search of a captive audience. But the huge major-

ity, I have found, are more generous, open-minded and vital people than the average in virtue of their stopping in the first place. They usually have interesting stories to tell. I would rather talk to a 50-year-old shipwright who had crewed in the America's Cup, as I did in a van between Granville and Cherbourg, than be bored in a railway carriage by a 19-year-old who knows a lot about bands in Gothenburg.

That said, I cannot dodge the safety question. Hitchhiking is, after all, doing something your parents always warned you against — taking lifts from strangers. Some strangers want more than conversation — it is true that he travels fastest who travels alone, but she who travels alone goes twice as fast. Male drivers stop very readily for single women in France as elsewhere. To me, that is a very good reason for women not to hitchhike alone. France has a better record than Spain or Italy in this regard, but sexual harassment of lone female hitchhikers is commonplace.

Back in the big Peugeot, the usual pleasant silence gave way to a comfortable silence as we swept into the evening sunshine on the N13. Then the driver, whose name was Alain, announced: "I hope you are not afraid. I am gay. I

drove to Paris this morning for a 'good moment'. It is done. I go home. Do not be afraid." I was not afraid. I was fascinated. Over the next three hours, in alternating fifth-form French and yodish English, I learned a lot about the life and loves of a homosexual town planner in provincial France.

As we bypassed Caen, Alain offered to put me up for the night. I prevaricated for ten kilometres, then said yes. I was glad I did, because Alain and I spent a pleasant evening in his flat in the pretty town of Granville. I watched the Olympics. He ironed his shirt and told me to tell him when the swimmers came on.

The next morning, Alain drove me out to the Cherbourg road, then removing the hassle of slogging along a suburban road with my thumb out, I have never got a lift in France while facing away from the traffic. You have to look them in the eye. Most people will still drive by. Lorry drivers, for instance, the hitchhiker's staple in Britain, rarely stop in France. But you cannot, and should not, prejudice, nor give up, even when you feel such a pariah that you want to sever your relationship with the thumb. I have had lifts in huge Citroëns and tiny Fiats, lifts from a drunken Milanese and

On the road, God at my side

It was 1948. "God" was my mate Godfrey Smith, then 22, now a veteran columnist. We had met in Oxford on an RAF short course in 1944, before being called up to be trained as aircrew. Four years later, we were demobbed and back at university. Our first long vac stretched ahead. The Continent beckoned.

Those who know God now will be surprised to learn that he proposed we take our bicycles to France. He was then 26, and would have taken the Massif Central in his stride while I would have been left far behind. But I was able to persuade him we would travel further and enjoy ourselves more by making "L'autostop".

We took, as I remember it, £30 each, but it lasted a month through France and Switzerland, on to Florence and back to Paris. We were never stuck for cash and never went hungry. We ran across friends who were stretching their travel allowance by eating peaches from the roadside and drinking Nescafé. But we usually had one slap-up meal a day, for something like 25p.

We started from Calais, then a battered and deserted place still showing the scars of war. We stood on the lonely quayside and eventually an old baker's van came chattering along. God tells me that I ran alongside it, shouting optimistically "Parce!", and that in the Smith family "Parce" has come to mean something that needs doing but is a rare impossibility. Well, the van did stop — and took us all of 2km

towards our destination. But I do not recall our ever waiting long before something turned up, and the only time we used public transport was to take a train from Paris to Fontainebleau. And there we spent our only night in a youth hostel. Why only once? In those days, you could not leave in the morning before doing some *petit devoir*. We were lazy buggers, I suppose.

We tried to stay on the main routes, but were constantly being dropped out in the sticks. In one village, a Samaritan offered us a room in his house, with just one double bed. I was not too keen, and in my grotty French requested: "Un lit, oui, mais avec deux matresses si possible." I blushed horribly at the laughter that followed.

We made it to Geneva in the back of a limousine. Switzerland was too expensive, and we retraced our steps. So back to Paris occasionally sleeping out, and with one night in a brothel in Fréjus, although we did not realise until next morning why there had been such a clatter of boots outside our door. Our last hitch was our longest: from the Riviera to the suburbs of Paris in one fabulous swoop.

How easy was hitchhiking in those golden days. How welcoming to *les étudiants d'Oxford* our chauffeurs. How unspoiled the landscapes and townscapes. How far the money stretched. The time of our life? I guess so.

HILARY RUBINSTEIN

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Dropped out in the sticks: Hilary Rubinstein in 1948

a sober Home Counties expat, lifts 400 miles down the *Autoroute de Soleil* and 500 yards down a country track.

Those who stop tend, particularly in France, to be former hitchhikers paying their dues. Jean-Philippe, the aforementioned shipwright, had hitched all over Europe in the 1960s. He thought it was harder now because, while most people who stop once hitched, most people who once

hitched do not stop. He said: "They say they are frightened, but it's not that, it's because they have become selfish." Maybe he is right, but if he is, then my own experience was untypical, because I had no trouble at all, and a lot of fun.

● Hitch-Hiker's Guide to Europe 1992, by Ken Welch and published by Fontana at £6.99, has a section on France. Hitch-hikers should also take a Michelin road map and a pocket dictionary.

Relais & Châteaux: a magnificent Times offer

A life of luxury in France

Today *The Times*, in association with Relais & Châteaux, presents the third day of a unique opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of 42 carefully selected establishments of individual character across France.

Regarded by many as the world's finest chain of hotels and restaurants, Relais & Châteaux, have developed, for the first time, an all-inclusive offer only for readers of *The Times*.

The participating establishments offer a VIP welcome for two people with gastronomic dinner, accommodation and breakfast at 30 per cent below normal tariff rates. All government taxes and service charges are included in the proposed prices.

Originating in France, Relais & Châteaux was created by seven like-minded hoteliers in 1954. As well as the châteaux, the group has grown to include abbeys, manor houses, mills or important residences which have been converted into very comfortable hotels or elegant restaurants. Beyond that of quality, the guiding philosophy then, as now, was based on the famous five "Cs" of the association standing for Character, Courtesy, Calm, Charm and Cuisine.

Almost 40 years later the chain is represented in 40 nations. Of the 158 establishments in France, 42 non-seasonal hotels have been selected to offer *Times* readers this unique French experience. From a gastronomic experience in Alsace to a late season

Collect six tokens in *The Times* and stay at a top French hotel at a 30 per cent discount



hotels, readers will also receive a complimentary copy of the Relais & Châteaux International Guide 1992 and the corresponding European Road Map, valued at £7.50.

The International Guide provides all the relevant information you will need to help you to select your hotels from those included in this offer, together with a detailed description of all the facilities and services offered by the hotels and restaurants within the group as a whole, including accommodation and restaurant rates and annual and weekly closing dates.

This superb offer is valid for unlimited stays between September 15 and December 31, 1992, when the booking is made in advance and directly with the chosen hotel. To qualify, simply collect any six of the seven tokens published in *The Times*. Taken one appeared on Saturday. Taken three is published here. Further tokens will be published throughout the week with details of how to apply for your "Passport to Privilege" card.

A famous guest-list

The *Hôtelierie du Bas Breau*, on the edge of the forest of Fontainebleau, is one of the most famous hotels in the Relais & Châteaux group. It was there, at a Council of Europe dinner in June 1984, that Margaret Thatcher is supposed to have softened towards Europe. She was dining, and staying in the hotel for the night, in the company of Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, President Mitterrand of France and Bettino Craxi, then prime minister of Italy.

The half-timbered hotel, small but luxurious, has other famous associations. It is in the village of Barbizon, which gave its name to the Barbizon school of painters. Millet, Corot and Rousseau all stayed there and painted in the forest. Robert Louis Stevenson actually lived in a room in the hotel, with a view over the courtyard, which it is still possible to book.

Not far away are the lonely hills and valleys, and the huge

boulders in strange shapes, which give such a haunting air to this part of the forest. Not much further on is the renaissance Chateau of Fontainebleau, where you can still see Marie-Antoinette's boudoir, and the apartments of Josephine and Napoleon, who adopted the chateau. (It is thought unlikely that he said "Not tonight, Josephine" here.)



Hôtelierie du Bas Breau: old associations, new facilities

The *Hôtelierie du Bas Breau* is only 35 miles from Paris, and Parisians like to come and weekend there. It has been in the family of the present owner, Jean-Pierre Fava, since the end of the First World War, and its restaurant menu keeps up the forest tradition of good game, especially venison and wild boar, with herbs and salads from their own vegetable garden.

When cheap is cheerful

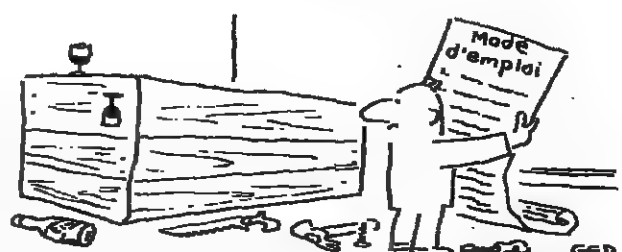
Any house will echo like an *Eldorado* set until it acquires the domestic equivalent of acoustic tiles: most of us call it furniture. But what kind of furniture and how much? The cost of not considering these questions in advance can be high.

This is not a column designed to dictate taste, nor can it hope to be helpful by dealing in averages, there being no such thing as the average cost of furnishing a home. What you spend depends on how much money you have and precisely what your house in France is for.

My view about second homes, especially if you have plans to let to holidaymakers, is that buying the cheapest furniture is not necessarily the most economic course in the long run. Chipboard and small children on holiday can be a deadly combination.

There is, however, a particular circumstance in which cheap furniture is worth considering. Many people who buy in France do so with a view to retiring to the house in, say, five years. Often they have a splendidly furnished home in Britain and they want to take this furniture with them. If so, the cheap option is probably the best.

But before taking that route, ensure that your precious antique sideboard will make sense in the French house. Will it fit? Is it in keeping? And



bear in mind that some timber is affected as much by heat as it is by damp.

Quite why new furniture should be so expensive in France is a mystery to me, although there, as here, competitive out-of-town shopping centres are growing in popularity.

The word *meubles* over a shopfront signals the presence of everything from beds to bathtubs, though beware of handing over money for a fine-looking wardrobe which actually arrives in a flat pack with 90 bolts (usually matched by 88 nuts) and a set of instructions in French.

There is a secondhand option, although such stores are few and far between. There is one just outside Bergerac,

which is handy for those buying in the Dordogne or the Lot, but that store and others like it tend to classify what they sell as antique, which is, of course, the universal word for expensive.

The other, and increasingly popular, option is to import furniture from Britain or simply to hand over the project to one of the British firms which specialise in installing furniture overseas. I have no experience of these companies, but cannot recommend one, but Peter Adams (Watford) Ltd, based at Edgware in Middlesex, offers one of the most extensive packages I have encountered. This includes everything from visiting the site to take measurements to supplying the furniture.

Obviously moving furniture to France can be a do-it-yourself operation, but make sure you have the right documents. There is a crucial difference between furnishing a second home and retiring.

You cannot take furniture into France duty free if you are buying a second home. Make sure you get the necessary documents from French customs, via the nearest French consulate, in advance.

If you are moving to a permanent residence in France, you can move furniture free of duty, provided you can show that it is at least three months old (six months in the case of a car).

You will need an application from the French consulate, in exchange for which it will issue a "certificate of change of residence". You will also need two copies, one in French, one in English, of an inventory showing each item and its cost, and you will need proof of ownership of the French home.

There are some restrictions. You can import one second-hand family car — but not two — free of duty, and certain types of vehicle (such as a Land-Rover or a vintage Rolls) may not qualify as a family car. Specialist removal firms such as Peter Adams will know exactly what documentation you need.

PETER BARNARD



THE Citizen's Charter is about to face the first test of its ability to change the way public services are provided as judging begins for the award of the first Chartermarks to organisations meeting its ideals.

Only 50 symbols will be awarded this year and William Waldegrave, the Citizen's Charter minister, has made it clear that he will award fewer than that if the entries are not up to scratch. Since its launch a year ago, the charter has been accused of promising much but offering no real redress to people who believe public bodies have failed them.

For the government, the first Chartermarks will be a chance to sort out the sheep from the goats, marking out the organisations able to embrace quality, choice, standards and value.

Entries closed at the end of June and judging by a panel chaired by Sir James Blyth, the chief executive of Boots, has started. The first Chartermarks will be awarded at a ceremony in September.

Despite a spate of individual charters from bodies ranging from British Rail to district councils, there is widespread confusion about the practical aims of

How the charter will make its mark

Can the Citizen's Charter meet its targets for higher standards of service? Douglas Broom reports on progress

the charter. Inside the public sector many senior managers question the value of devoting time and effort to winning a Chartermark award for implementing something about which they and their customers remain sceptical. Many have turned instead to British Standard 5750, which measures the ability of an organisation to set, monitor and meet targets for quality of service.

John Redwood, the local government minister, said more than 50 local authorities were among the 296 applicants for Chartermarks. By contrast, the British Standards Institution (BSI) says 42 local authorities have qualified for its BS5750 "Qualitymark", which pre-dates the Chartermark by several years. Chris Sheldon of BSI says "BS5750 was already established as the private sector benchmark for quality management systems when the Chartermark came along. So it is understandable that people want to stay with what is a tried

and tested way of improving quality." Like the Citizen's Charter, BS5750 emphasises the ability to respond promptly to a customer.

Encouraging councils to apply for Chartermarks, Mr Redwood appealed to their civic pride, urging them not to be left out in the first round of awards. One man who needed no great en-



Determined: Richard Cummins

couragement was Richard Cummins, the chief executive of Wycombe District Council in Buckinghamshire. Having evaluated BS5750, he decided to throw himself and his staff into the fight to win a Chartermark. Like many public sector managers Mr Cummins argues that he and his organisation anticipated the Charter by several years, setting targets

for customer service long before John Major outlined his "big idea".

When it came to applying for a Chartermark, matters were less straightforward. The first blow came with the discovery that the council was not entitled to seek the award for what it was already doing. Although the council's Customer Action policy applies to all its activities, the Cabinet Office would not accept an entry from the council as a whole. Instead officials insisted that if it wanted to enter, Wycombe should submit six applications, one for each service department.

Mr Cummins says: "Of course, if that is how we have to enter, then that is what we will do, but it is a great pity that having built up a strong corporate spirit here we cannot submit ourselves to the test as a team."

Evidence of that team spirit is to be seen in the council's new offices but conveying that team spirit on paper is a

headache. The Cabinet Office offers no guidance on framing the application.

Visitors to the council are greeted by uniformed counter staff, wearing name badges. Like every other member of staff they have targets to meet. In their case, no member of the public must be kept waiting for more than two minutes.

The setting of targets goes throughout the organisation from a deadline for answering letters to the chief executive to a rule that Eddie Russell, the council press officer, must answer 70 per cent of journalists' queries within four hours. In its attempt to convince the judges, Wycombe has opted for a no-frills approach, setting out what it is doing in seven pages of clear type, accompanied by validators' reports from CSI Group, a consultancy firm, and the South East Regional Employers Council.

"Whether we win the Chartermark or not we will go on doing all of this and trying to do it better," says Mr Cummins, gesturing to a poster on the wall of his office setting out the three commandments. Such evangelical fervour surely deserves its reward in Whitehall.

The public sector seems reluctant to give a fair hearing to ex-service personnel. Clare Hogg reports on attempts to change that attitude

Force for good in the work-place

The Cold War is over. The result is a reduction in the number of employees in the Armed Forces (due to fall by 54,000 during the next four years), and hotter competition for jobs in "Civvy Street".

On May 8, the Duke of Kent launched Access to Excellence, a programme to educate recruiters about the advantages of ex-service job candidates. "We don't want or need charity," says Major General David Burden, the director general of resettlement. He claims the services constitute a workforce with highly transferable skills. "We want to be considered on an equal footing with other job candidates."

Here lies the rub. The image of the forces in the minds of many employers can disadvantage service leavers. The prejudice can stem from outdated national service experience, fictional characters as diverse as Captain Mainwaring and Colonel Blimp, and impres-

sions from news reports. The image generally bears no relevance and is no help to modern recruiters. It rarely encompasses thoughts of sailors and airmen, who together will outnumber soldiers by 1995. Maj Gen Burden is fighting to correct these ideas.

He boasts that the services constitute the best-trained workforce in Britain. Initial selection for the Army is stringent and standards of health, intelligence and character must be met. Then the aim is to build qualities such as leadership, reliability, adaptability, and what Maj Gen Burden describes as a "can do" mentality. Additionally, practical training for each different job is given and courses usually contain an element of how to pass on this specialist knowledge to others.

Less obvious is the extent to which the training given in the forces can be transferred to business. In general, employers seem



Super-skilled and highly motivated: men from "Britain's best-trained workforce" exercise on Salisbury Plain, and, right, Maj Gen David Burden, resettlement director

pleased with former service employees. According to a recent report by P-E International, "organisations which had recruited ESPs (ex-service personnel) regarded them as at least average, and, in about a third of all responses, above-average employees."

David Howells, the personnel resources manager of the Dixons Group, is enthusiastic about his company's ex-service appointees and he finds their technical knowledge transfers happily. "It's hard work in our branches," he says. "We need people who can keep up with the pressure and who can present themselves in a convincing

way." Forces people, Mr Howells says, are also "well-organised and responsive to change", both qualities that the electrical retailer needs to remain competitive.

Sir Colin Marshall, the chief executive of British Airways, is just as keen on ex-service recruits, insisting they are "very responsible people indeed".

Forces leaders have a choice of 28 days' resettlement training, which can be any one of a multitude of courses, from corporate finance to how to run a pub; or a month's work experience, or a month's extra leave. All leavers are entitled to this training, including the 30,000 who

leave the services voluntarily every year. For those who can organise it, there is also the possibility of five days' job attachment. Those made redundant can attend a two and a half day job-search workshop.

Nevertheless, Maj Gen Burden takes a tough line on further help for senior ranks. A redundant top executive of a big corporation could reasonably expect a complete outplacement package, with facilities and counselling provided until a new job was found.

By contrast, a brigadier in the army will get no more help than a

corporal. Concern for the expenditure of public funds is at the root of this approach, but Maj Gen Burden is not worried.

To have risen to such heights, he argues, these men and women must be dynamic individuals — problem-solving go-getters. Having been taught the techniques of job search, he says "it is amazing how much information can be found in libraries and the local press. I am confident that they will be able to face the challenge and just get on with it."

It is this rather bracing can-do attitude that leads Maj Gen Burden to comment ruefully that "we

may be victims of our own reputation. The skills and qualities demonstrated in the Falklands and the Gulf can appear to be rather daunting. There is often the fear of having one's own comfortable workplace ethos altered by a go-ahead type."

If he is right, it demonstrates a suicidal attitude on the part of British industry. There may be no shortage of job applicants, but, as every public sector recruiter knows, there is a chronic shortage of good quality, skilled employees. Ex-forces personnel could be the marmite from heaven employers are seeking.

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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

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INNER LONDON PROBATION SERVICE

DEPUTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

A vacancy exists for a Deputy Chief Probation Officer to join the management team in the largest Probation Service in this country, employing over 1300 staff.

ILPS serves the City of London and 12 Inner London Boroughs, and contains both the richest and poorest communities in the country. Offending is at its highest in London, which presents the classic symptoms of Inner City decline and urban deprivation. It has a high percentage of transient and rootless people and has to meet national as well as local Probation needs. London is a multi-racial community with the challenges and opportunities that presents. Its proximity to Parliament, the Home Office, and the national media means that its senior staff are constantly in the public eye.

The demands on the successful Deputy Chief Probation Officer will, therefore, be as considerable as the rewards. Currently ILPS is fully staffed with a young, energetic and committed workforce. We are positively engaging with the challenges of the new Criminal Justice Act, National Standards, The Children Act, the introduction of Cash Limits, Crime Prevention and Partnership Initiatives.

The person appointed to this post will have delegated responsibility for major sectors of the Service's policy and operation and will need to demonstrate considerable management experience at senior level in Probation or a related field, a commitment to a corporate approach and the highest standards of professional and management practice.

The Inner London Probation Service is an equal opportunity employer and a summary of its policy will be made available to all applicants. Selection will take place in accordance with our Codes of Practice. However, given the current make-up of the Senior Management Team, applications are especially welcome from women and from black people.

The appointment will be subject to the Probation Rules and the Committee's Conditions of Service. Salary £38,769.00 plus £1,884.00 p.a. London Weighting Allowance plus Performance Related Pay (all currently under review.) 36 Days Leave, Contract Car Hire/Car Loan Scheme and Relocation Assistance are available.

Final interviews are expected to take place during November, 1992.

Further particulars of the post and application form (to be returned by 14 September, 1992) may be obtained from Roy E Gray, Acting Chief Probation Officer, 73 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2BN. (Tel: 071 222 5656.)

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ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Police Authority for Northern Ireland invites applications from suitably qualified police officers for the post of

ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE

In the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Applicants must have at least five years' total service in the Superintendent ranks at 30 July 1992. Attendance on the Senior Command Course or the Chief Officers' Course is desirable but not essential.

The salary is £43,701 per annum rising to £44,796, on completion of 3 years service in post, (subject to an increase to take effect from the 1st September 1992), plus an RUC Allowance of £1,725 per annum. The usual allowances are also payable including a housing allowance and a motor vehicle allowance.

The RUC is the second largest police force in the United Kingdom and provides unique policing challenges. It has a complement of 8,489 and is supported by an RUC Reserve with a complement of 4,967, including 3,075 who are full-time officers.

The appointment will be subject to satisfactory medical examination and to the approval of the Secretary of State. It is conditioned by the Police Acts and Regulations currently in force, and to such other conditions of service as may from time to time be adopted by the Authority.

The Selection Board is likely to be held in October 1992 and it may be decided to interview only those applicants who are considered to be best qualified. The Selection Board may draw up a reserve list of successful applicants which would apply for a six month period from the date of the Board.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is 13 August 1992.

For informal discussion on the appointment please contact the Chief Superintendent, Personnel on Belfast 650222, Ext 21929.

Application forms, which may be requested by telephone, are obtainable from:

The Secretary and Chief Executive
Police Authority for Northern Ireland
6th Floor, River House,
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Tel No: Belfast (0232) 230111 Exts: 20213/4/5

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Applications for details to:

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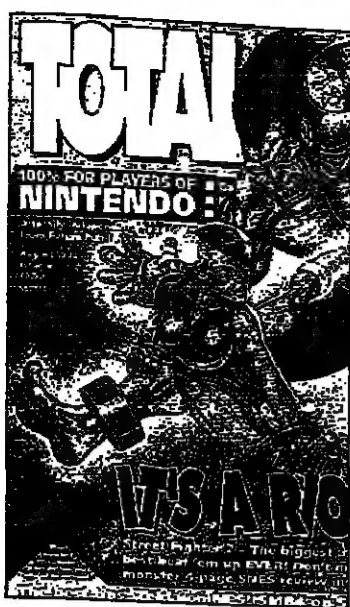
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invites applications for the post of

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which will become vacant in August 1993 upon the retirement of Douglas Matthews. Applicants should preferably be graduates with professional librarianship qualifications and with experience in modern library methods. The salary will be based on the scale for university librarians. The closing date for applications, which should be addressed to the chairman, is 6th October. Interviews will be held in the first half of November.

New boys in the hunt for video game gold



Total 100,000 monthly sales

While the rest of the media have fallen victim to the recession, laying off staff and reducing pagination to try to cut costs, Britain's video game magazines are enjoying an unexpected boom. Several years after America, the UK has finally succumbed to the charms of Mario, the computer-generated hero of the hugely popular Nintendo games.

British publishers have been quick to spot the potential. The phenomenal success of the games has been reflected by an explosion of new magazines trying to keep fans abreast of the latest games. This time last year two publications with a combined circulation of less than 100,000 were the only titles available. Now 12 magazines, with a total circulation pushing 600,000, are competing for a share of the lucrative market, and a further eight titles are due to be launched by the end of the year.

Publishers are racing to exploit the success of Nintendo and Sega

Most eagerly awaited is the first official Nintendo magazine — possibly called *Nintendo Systems Magazine* — in October. The Emap title will have a print run of 250,000 and a £500,000 promotional budget.

The optimism behind these launches appears to be justified, for the size of the UK video game market is set to reach £500 million this year. By comparison, the combined compact disc market is worth just £345 million. Manufacturers predict that more than three million homes will have video games installed by next January.

The three big players in the video game magazine sector are Emap Images, Future and Europress. Video games magazines, aimed at young males aged eight to 18, are lively, colourful and humorous.

They have hit the circulation of traditional comics. *The Beano's* sales have fallen from a post-war high of two million to just 250,000 and moves are now being considered to make Dennis the Menace a video game star to halt the decline.

Steve Jarratt, a chemistry graduate who is editor of *Total* magazine (part of Future), launched last December and now claiming a 100,000 monthly sales figure, is fairly typical of those who work in the industry. "I'd always loved computer games and my dream — to work on a video game magazine — came true when I was made redundant from my job as a laboratory technician," he says. "Everyone who works for the titles is an enthusiast first and writer second. On a Saturday you'll find the office full of writers who've

come in during their spare time just to try out new games for fun."

Success can, however, bring its own problems and the upsurge in new titles has left advertising agencies confused and wondering where to place their business. The sector has also suffered from being viewed as a "specialist ghetto", a notion those within the industry are keen to dispel. Greg Ingham, Future publisher, says: "Our magazines are not read by social retardards with the early days of home computers."

Suana Dinsey, editor of *Computer Trade Weekly*, the industry's trade magazine, believes that the rapid growth in popularity of both video games and the magazine market serving game users, are changing perceptions. "There is

still a confounding mix of titles but the sector as a whole has finally broken into the mainstream," he says. "Proof of this was the success of Channel 4's *Gamesmaster* earlier in the year which pulled in twice as many viewers as the *Jonathan Ross Show*."

However, the question on everyone's lips is: how many of the new titles can survive? Mr Dinsey says: "I expect a handful of market leaders to emerge in the long term and the rest to go under, but it will take a couple of years to spot the trends."

Of course, the biggest factor influencing the sector's future well-being is the state of the video games market. Will Mario and his video game buddies go the way of the skateboard and the Rubik's cube or still be wowing children in five years? Only time will tell.



Mean Machine: tough stuff

Soon, Andrew Quinn will become ITV's first chief executive — and try to cure a £500m headache. Melinda Wittstock spoke to him

Mr Big surveys his commercial empire

The death-knell for investigative current affairs programmes on peaktime ITV was sounded recently when Paul Jackson, Carlton Television's director of programmes, warned that *World In Action* and other factual series must now be made to win an audience of 10 million, "not to get people out of prison".

Andrew Quinn, who takes charge this autumn of a £500 million annual programme budget as ITV's first chief executive in the network's 37-year history, offers little more in the way of hope to despairing documentary-makers: current affairs can, he says, be made to get people out of prison provided that, at the very least, eight million people want to watch them.

'Any programme is going to have to fight for its place'

"Any programme is going to have to fight for its place on the schedule," says Mr Quinn, who last week was appointed one of British broadcasting's biggest impresarios with more power over what 20 million viewers will watch each night on ITV than any of the 15 regional companies. "Anybody who thinks they can preserve a genre of programming by moaning that it might vanish will see it vanish."

Worthiness was never expected to carry much currency with ITV executives in the new

era of cut-throat competition. The commercial imperative that programmes more than pay for themselves with large audiences and corresponding advertising revenue means that current affairs programmes must attract audiences of between eight and nine million to survive in peaktime, he says.

Granada's *World In Action*, the most popular of all ITV current affairs series, has recently increased its audience to 7.5 million. But Mr Quinn, currently Granada's chief executive, says it will need a further half-million viewers to avoid being relegated to a 10.30pm or 11pm slot.

The fear is that the struggle to keep 8.30pm slots will lead current affairs producers to boost audiences by blurring the line between investigation and entertainment. "Infotainment", particularly sensational crime reconstructions, is now the biggest peaktime ratings puller on the American networks — and far cheaper to make than drama.

But Mr Quinn believes that with better marketing and promotion more serious current affairs programmes can keep their place in the schedules. He wants a diversity of factual output, adding that too much crime actuality would be "too samey" for British viewers' more eclectic tastes.



Looking forward to the bed of nails: Andrew Quinn says he will spend no more than three years at the ITV controls

Whatever their content, current affairs and possibly even *News At Ten* seem destined for later slots, particularly if Mr Quinn succeeds in his plan to persuade the Independent Television Commission to extend peak-time until 11pm or later. "There's no reason why peak-time has to end at 10.30pm; to require that it does becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy," he says. *News At Ten*, now under pressure from ITV companies to boost ratings above its current 6.8 million average, could become

News At Eleven in order to clear peaktime schedules for drama and films.

Mr Quinn, who caused a stir last February when he told the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers that only six ITV companies would survive the decade, is nonetheless convinced that programme quality will not suffer from the astronomical sums some companies paid for their licences.

"ITV is not a sinking ship. There is ample finance in the system to produce an original schedule which can be re-

freshed and renewed year-on-year with innovative new programmes," Mr Quinn says. "But no longer does ITV have the ability to sustain any duplication; we can no longer have 15 sets of everything."

Mr Quinn, who as chairman of the three-man committee which drafted the new central commissioning and scheduling arrangements and conducted the six-month search for the £400,000-plus post he has now filled, predicts more rationalisation and plenty of mergers between ITV

companies in the next few years. "ITV's regional character can be preserved regardless of ownership. Shareholder groupings, shared distribution companies and joint advertising sales houses will strengthen ITV, not weaken it."

The new central commissioning and scheduling unit, required by the 1990 Broadcasting Act to end ITV's programme supply cartel and allow independent producers to compete directly with broadcasters for airtime, will provide the network with a more

marketable cohesion. He says aggressive marketing must be central to the way the schedule is devised if ITV is to remain the dominant channel. "We need to do more research to find out what people want to watch and when. Then we have to give it to them and make sure they know we're giving it to them," he says.

Mr Quinn, aged 55, who has never made a programme and admits that he is usually too busy to watch much more than the news, is nonetheless seen by the industry as a man sympathetic to programme-makers.

Praised as a brilliant manager, Mr Quinn says his tastes in television have been "conditioned" by Granada landmarks such as *Brideshead Revisited*, *Prime Suspect*, *Coronation Street* and *World In Action*. Not having produced a programme does not matter, he says. "What matters is that I know how programmes are made and how much they cost."

Mr Quinn's first task will be to hire the network director who will take day-to-day responsibility for commissioning and scheduling, followed by a tier of commissioning editors, marketing executives and publicity staff. Time is of the essence: new dramas require a lead-time of at least a year, but nothing has been commissioned for autumn.

1993, because of the delay in finding a chief executive.

Another challenge will be to persuade the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) that ITV's new networking arrangements are not anti-competitive. The OFT, which publishes its views this week, is understood to object to the extent of control the 15 ITV companies retain over the schedule and believes a loophole preventing Mr Quinn from commissioning a programme without an ITV company's approval might impede independent producers' access to the schedule.

But Mr Quinn, who last year said ITV companies "should not surrender their sovereignty" to the network chief executive, says that the system must be fair to independents, but that it was not for the OFT to "help build up a strong independent sector".

He says he does not regard his new job as a poisoned chalice. "If it wasn't a bed of nails, it wouldn't be interesting," Mr Quinn, who spent 28 years at Granada, plans to spend just three as ITV's supremo. "If I do it well then I can ride into the sunset with applause ringing in my ears. If I do it badly they are free to chuck me out," he says.

● Channel 4 and the threat to programme-making: page 8

Bite-sized campaigners

Anyone who observed closely the 1988 campaign for the American presidency must have been alarmed by George Bush's statement so early in the 1992 campaign that if it was going to be "dog eat dog" he would do anything it took to get himself re-elected. This seemed to confirm the gloomy predictions of American commentators after President Bush's first victory that next time the campaign tactics would be even dirtier.

For the series *Eye on the White House*, for ITV, I spent a considerable part of 1988 following the battle from inside the giant American Broadcasting Company (ABC). Peter Jennings, the ABC chief anchorman in New York, was on the receiving end of my cameras and questions. I filmed his private editorial briefings, rehearsals and broadcasts, and cross-examined him at intervals between March and November on his reactions to the campaign. He was particularly concerned by the nature of the political commercials.

"Negative advertising and negative campaigning works," he said. "We all like to say that it doesn't work and it's really beneath contempt, as it is in many cases. But until American people either individually or as a whole reject negative advertising I think that is the way we're going to go."

The image of the candidate is so much more important in America than in Britain, because the combination of the greater size of the country and the much less cohesive party system means that in the early stages of the campaign many candidates are relatively unknown. This was so particularly true of those running for the Democratic nomination in 1988 that they were nicknamed "The Seven Dwarfs".

I pressed the respected American columnist George Will on whether that meant that television impact now determined the choice of candidates — was it a case of the

The 1988 presidential campaign was unattractive, unintelligent, and effective. Will there be a repeat?



Sparring: George Bush (left) and Michael Dukakis in 1988

more telegenic they were, the more chance they had of success? "No," he said. "Whatever we're getting from television, it's not glamour. Television is at most a terrible temptation, because obviously you can get away with murder on it, by condensing your campaign into slogans."

"But television doesn't need to be quite as passive in allowing the candidates to do this, and candidates needn't be quite as slothful, lazy, devious or ignorant in doing it. They could have more ambitious political class."

Still, the absence of a national daily press cannot do other than enhance the importance of television in a presidential campaign.

Politicians themselves are critical of the way in which they feel the power to shape the political agenda has shifted out of their control and into the hands of the media manipulators and spin-doctors. Henry

Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, was particularly unhappy. "The risk we're running in our campaigns is that they've reached a stage where the media become part of the electoral process; they no longer report it, they become props for the electoral process."

But many observers in 1988 were at least as concerned about the impact on the democratic process of the party managers' tactics. The Republicans were the worst offenders. Michael Dukakis began to emerge as the Democratic front-runner in the early summer, he built up a commanding lead in the opinion polls over the then Vice-president Bush — as high as 17 points in June — and from then on the whole tone of the campaign began to degenerate.

The use by Lee Atwater, who masterminded the Bush campaign, of negative television commercials distorting the Massachusetts governor's

state record on crime and pollution had an enormous impact on the electorate. "Mr Dukakis was not well-known, a north-eastern governor who had suddenly exploded on to the scene," Mr Will said. "The Bush people did some polling and were appalled to learn that a majority of voters thought he was either a moderate Democrat or a conservative Democrat, and therefore rather took to him."

"They had to make a decision on how quickly to define Mr Dukakis before he could define himself: they wanted him perceived as what indeed his record shows him to be, which is a fairly liberal Democrat. And they set out to do it the quick, unattractive, unintelligent, immensely effective way."

The fragmentation of the important American news programmes, with commercial breaks about every five minutes, means that television reduced the campaign to an exchange of brief "sound bites".

"There's a kind of dreary downward spiral in American political rhetoric," Mr Will said. "When George Bush wants to say that he will not raise taxes, he announces: 'Read my lips, no new taxes.' You cannot imagine Lincoln saying, 'Read my lips, no slaves.' That's not the way people used to talk in this country."

But does packaging now matter so much more than substance in American elections that it is impossible to conduct a real political debate? The 1992 polls seem to indicate that the country may be looking for a change in November. Do the lessons of 1988 augur ill for the quality of the campaign this year, or will the American electorate this time reject the more shameless attempts to manipulate it?

JOHN MILLER

● The author is a former head of features and education at TVS. This article first appeared in *World Today* (April, 1992).

Pretty well guaranteed to increase circulation

Never mind the knitting patterns and the sexy stories, the recipe for success in women's magazines is a beautiful face on the cover

The publishers Chatto & Windus had gathered a fairly impressive group of women journalists and editors together to meet the woman who edits *Lea*, the first magazine for independent women over a certain age with minds of their own. American, of course.

The editor was skeletal, in the way all smart American women are these days. She proudly claimed two face-lifts, white teeth and a look in the eyes that betrayed her 69 years.

She had written an autobiography, *The Second Seduction*, which had managed to shock many of the women around the table. And these, remember, are the glossies' finest, peeling off sexual inhibitions like strippers in the *Crazy Horse*. A tragic childhood with both parents committing suicide, sexual abuse, problems with drink and drugs, affairs with both sexes, a seemingly happy marriage left on a whim. I think we can say Frances Lea is no slouch in the emotional stakes. Or in the professional one: her magazine sells 500,000 in the US. By all the usual measures that would translate to 50,000 or so over here. Quite respectable for a niche title.

She started telling us about herself and her magazine. A committed feminist, she felt the greed of the baby-boomer generation was selling feminism down the drain. One editor said feminism wasn't a live issue in the UK. Several others disagreed. Battle began to rage. I hadn't heard anything like it for 20 years.

Then they turned on Ms Lea. If she was such a feminist, why did she put only good-looking women on her covers? She had a stab at finding a politically correct answer. Finally falling back on something like: "What, you mean I should put ugly women on the cover? Listen, I'm trying to sell magazines here."

It was a familiar argument. I had it all my editing life. Pretty women on covers demean the rest of womankind. Women's magazines keep women in the ghetto. Women are the same as men, or

COVER STORY

JANE REED



better, and in a just world you should be able to sell thousands of magazines with an old, fat woman on the cover.

Well, it isn't a just world. It's a cold, hard, commercial world. And if you want millions to read you every week you grab everyone you can with a bold bright cover image. The more subtle messages you can display inside.

In my first weeks as editor of *Woman's Own*, then selling over 1.5 million a week, I indulged myself unforgettably. I was the youngest editor the title had ever had, and the first woman. I knew what women my age wanted — and it wasn't acres of knitting.

I gave them soft-focus covers of less than perfect women, not pin-sharp faces on which you could count the grains of powder. I gave them eight pages of trendy new environmental pollution (this was the early 1970s) and eight pages on Cooking with Flowers.

An indulgent publisher watched and waited as circulation dropped. Then he took me on one side. Try it my way for a week or two, he said. Sure enough, the circulation crept back up. It was a bitter pill to swallow. The women of Britain really did want knitting. They did want cooking. They were attracted to laughing eyes and great white teeth, and the

bigger and glossier the head on the cover the better the issue sold.

My job was simply to carry the traditions of the magazine forward into a new generation. Maybe the cooking was more stylishly presented: maybe one week a bit of knitting might have a Paris label. The only photographers in those days who understood that you can break creative barriers within commercial disciplines were the Americans. So I took all my covers in New York.

I lapsed, of course. After ten years, you do. One Asot week on the cover we ran just a hat, one eye and a bit of lip. Gorgeous hat it was: cost £500. I think the cover was even shortlisted later for some kind of design award.

The day that issue came out, I noticed hundreds of women rushing out of a knitwear factory in Wolverhampton. My readers, I smiled patronisingly. They piled into the newsagent's and I watched as they chose every magazine but mine. Anyone could see why. That hat had about as much to do with their everyday lives as a crate of Dom Perignon. You don't make the same mistake twice. "Common it up a bit," I would shout every time I saw a perfectly designed cover thereafter.

Today's most successful magazines copy the cover disciplines of yesterday. A big glossy fish is what readers of *Angels' Mail* want to see. *Practical Parenting* has big glossy babies. *Classic Car* has big glossy cars. Women's magazines have big glossy women.

Style does change, though. The weeklies are now covered in typographical graffiti; everything on the inside is flagged on the outside. *Marie Claire*, *Cosmo* and *Company* try to shock where once they titillated. (Sex is the knitting of the 1990s: it puts on readers.)

Continuing success in a mass market is about not being too different. I'll happily give a month's salary to any mass selling magazine that sells more, month on month, with a fat, ugly woman on the cover. No contest really. Since I don't think I have ever met an ugly woman.

Seventh day advent

Will the new regional Sunday newspapers outperform the national heavyweights? Robin Hunt reports

Sunday national newspapers — the trials of Diana and Mellor — have not been doing too well in recent times. Overall sales are down by 3 per cent on last year, though in the middle market dogfight both the *Mail on Sunday* and the *Sunday Express* have bucked the trend. With regional Sunday papers the story is different.

One of the reasons for the national decline is the improved quality of Saturday newspapers: the bundles that arrive on the first day of the weekend are now as thick and diverse as that of the Sundays a few years ago. That reflects an obvious fact: the weekend starts on Saturday. Instead of a paper which gives them news together with a wide range of leisure-related features, things they might actively pursue in their free time. The Sundays have responded, but their high-ground has been to some extent taken away.

Add this to the continuing recession which has meant no improvement in advertising revenue and it would not seem the ideal time to launch a new Sunday newspaper. Well, surprisingly, perhaps it is. Westminster Press's *Yorkshire on Sunday* launches this weekend with high hopes. It will join an ever more impressive range of regional Sunday newspapers — *Scotland on Sunday*, the *Mercury* in Birmingham, the *Sunday Sun* in Newcastle, the *Belfast Sunday Life* — which have steadily improved in circulation over the past few years, against the trend of the nationals.

What they all offer is a combination of the seasonal lifestyle and leisure ap-

proach that the nationals have adopted to differentiate themselves from Saturday papers, together with the intimacy of regionality, breaking free from what is often perceived to be a heavy bias in national press towards the south.

The appeal of the regions to newspaper publishers is powerful at present as well as *Yorkshire on Sunday*, there will be another Sunday, the *Sunday News* and *Echo*, which covers Yorkshire and the Lancashire region of Lancashire. The *News* and *Echo* is launched by *Sunday Sport* publisher, David Sullivan, in September in what is seen by many as his bid for respectability. United Newspapers, publishers of Yorkshire's most famous paper, the *Yorkshire Post*, is not discounting the possibility that it may enter the fray. The two new titles have already upped the ante: both had planned to launch later in the autumn, but competition has made them jump early.

The interest shown in *Yorkshire on Sunday* is a social trend. In terms of quality of life Yorkshire outperforms much of the country and, with house prices much lower than in the south, many of its inhabitants have a greater willingness to spend. This makes the sector very appealing to advertisers, the key in such a tight market.

Launching the title, *Yorkshire on Sunday*'s sales team talked of the death of that southern stereotype, the Yuppie. He has been replaced, they claim, by the Guty (the person who has Gone Up To Yorkshire). The acronym reflects the relocation plans of many companies: 35 UK-based organisations moved to the Yorkshire region last year, for example.

Westminster Press hopes



Selling copy: what potential advertisers were shown

that the county's strong sense of identity will help *Yorkshire on Sunday* to succeed. It will feature a 20-page sports supplement ensuring in-depth coverage centred on all Yorkshire sports. Great Britain Rugby League captain, Gary Schofield, will be a columnist. And at least some of the media companies which buy space for advertising approve of what they have seen. Roy Jenks, head of press buying at Zenith, a wing of Saatchi and Saatchi, believes the paper will succeed, particularly because of its sports coverage.

Mike Glover, the launch editor, says the paper will sit somewhere between the *Mail on Sunday* and the top end of the *Sunday Mirror* market. He is looking for a circulation around 100,000; 250,000 copies will be distributed for the first month.

By launching at the beginning of the football season (Leeds United are the League champions) the newspaper gives itself a chance to establish itself as the Hansard of all things sporty in Yorkshire,

challenging the *Yorkshire Post*'s excellent Monday sports supplement. David Sullivan's paper is as present less well defined. Karen Brady, marketing the paper, said it will feature "no topless girls, no 0898 telephone adverts, and will be very different from the *Sunday or Daily Sport*".

The *News* and *Echo* will also be aimed at the mid-market and, at present, promises to be a sleeker, more professional-looking paper. (Does anybody remember Eddie Shah's daily, *The Post*?) Our directors have a policy not to delve into people's personal lives. Miss Brady says, though presumably a *Yorkshire* or *Lancashire* MP were to be involved in a sex scandal, the policy might have to be re-thought.

Some believe that by covering two counties with such a history of enmity, Sullivan might be risking the appeal of regionality. *Yorkshire on Sunday*'s editor, Mike Glover, wishes him "success in Lancashire"; not too many national Sunday editors will be doing the same thing.

The High Court defeat of Channel 4 poses serious dangers to democracy

No information, no freedom

It is 1995, and there is a new government. A satisfied officer in the Northern Ireland security services phones the independent producer of the successor to *World in Action*.

The soldier says the new prime minister's inner circle of advisers used the secret services to bug the opposition and to arrange compromising meetings between opposition politicians and paramilitary organisations that imply their support for the terrorists' cause. The source insists on retaining off the record for deep background briefing.

The producer meets him alone in an underground garage in the dark. Each suggested lead is borne out by research, and the informant is willing to be filmed only in silhouettes, provided nobody ever knows his name.

The source breaks the Official Secrets Act, which forbids any member of the secret services, past or present, from revealing anything about its activities, legal or illegal. The producer and the television channel break the act by receiving the information, and later break the Prevention of Terrorism Act by refusing to name their source to the new National Anti Terrorism Squad, suggested by the chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary in a lecture in the summer of 1992.

The film is commissioned by a leading Channel 3 publisher-broadcaster, recently taken over by a continental company. The now largely French-Italian board hear the commissioning editor argue that this could be a major scandal, and that the legal costs should not be the sole measure of the programme's value.

The guardians should be guarded.

Lawyers point out that there is no defence of the public interest in either act. Moreover, the penalties in the anti-terrorism act could drive the company out of business. The lawyers cite Lord Justice Woolf's 1992 judgment who fined Channel 4 £75,000 for refusing to disclose a source to the RUC and warned that future cases could lead to more serious penalties.

The continental chairman



After the penalty: Michael Grade, Channel 4's chief executive

of the board smiles at the suggestion that they should risk even a portion of their profits, let alone the company itself, on legal costs, on a programme. "You British are so romantic — always willing to die for your honour," he says. "How could I explain it to shareholders?" The discussion is over.

However, last week, with remarkable courage, the board and management of Channel 4 did just that: they

risks themselves risk total destruction for the sake of a single source of a Northern Irish story, whether or not it is true. And from January 1 1993, the Independent Television Commission will no longer be the publisher of ITV programmes: each company will be responsible for its own output.

If Andrew Quinn, the new managing director of the ITV network, moves *News at 10* back by half an hour, such

With politicians and judges siding with the police and security services there can be no balance of powers

risks the company for a principle. In standing firm with Box, the independent production company which made the programme alleging wrongdoings inside the RUC, they risked the end of the channel itself.

Would such a programme be made by Channel 4 in 1995, when it will be headed by Channel 3, Channel 5 and BSkyB, as well as three other 24-hour satellite channels? With programme budgets tight in every category, could they risk so much on one story?

Journalists have long risked jail to protect their sources. But now the broadcasting organ-

current affairs as remain will start after 11pm, a graveyard for viewers and thus not a slot to command financial or political resources.

Typical of bad law, the Channel 4 case should never have been brought at all. The chief constable of the RUC dismissed the film early on as "an unjustified, unsubstantiated slur". He later announced that a serious investigation found no truth in the allegation. It is inconceivable that, in an island, the RUC did not know the source, anyway.

To ask for the closure of a leading broadcaster for refusing to disclose a source who has perpetrated a "hoax"

which the RUC has "utterly dismissed" as untrue seems a cynical use of an act designed to catch terrorists. This seems to be yet another example of police defensiveness.

On what basis, therefore, did it win the support of Sir Patrick Mayhew, the attorney-general, now Northern Ireland secretary. Perhaps he too may have revisited the idea of teaching the media a lesson.

The authorities appear to be adopting the dangerous policy known as "speaking with one voice", designed to unify army, RUC and Northern Ireland Office pronouncements, despite each of them being nationally independent.

Over the past decade, the RUC has not always challenged important stories that flouted the law — anonymous members of the security services helped the makers of *Death on the Rock* when the British defence ministry did everything possible to freeze them out. The recent *Panorama* programme, *Dirty War*, drove a coach and horses through both acts in describing collusion between the army and death squads, but wisely its makers were not prosecuted.

The BBC has bravely supported Channel 4's stance of protecting its sources, despite its charter coming up for renewal. As citizens, we must hope that the broadcasters committed to public service will keep their nerve.

The new-found openness of both the KGB and CIA mock the British obsession with secrecy as a necessary condition of effectiveness.

Illegal activities similar to those carried out at Watergate could go on here, but under present law, we would never know. The RUC's attempt to penalise Channel 4 has given supporters of a written constitution a lot of ammunition. With both politicians and judges siding with the police and security services there is no balance of powers. Without strong investigative journalism, we have no access to information and no forum to discuss it.

Freedom of speech without freedom of information is no freedom at all.

ROGER GRAEF

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Barker Publications Ltd. A well established, international, medical publishers, based in West London. In every month of M25, M3, M4, with a copy of advertising material to be responsible for 3 established journals, each of which is Market Leader. A scientific / Pharmaceutical background an advantage. Fluency in French / German helpful. It is essential that the candidate is a dedicated sales professional with a proven track record of not less than 5 years in sales and able to assume responsibility for our continuing growth objectives. For someone in the 26-34 age group offers excellent career prospects. Basic salary + commission + benefits. Send detailed CV to Managing Director, Barker Publications Ltd 539 London Road, Ilkerton, Middleham, TW7 4DA.

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General Appointments: Management, Engineering, Science & Technology, with editorial.
THURSDAY
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FRIDAY
International Appointments: Overseas Opportunities, Motoring: The complete car buyer's guide with editorial.
SATURDAY
Business to Business: Business opportunities.

SATURDAY
WEEKEND TIMES
Shoppers: shopping from the comfort of your own home.
Saturday Reminders: The place to expand your social circle.
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Fill in the coupon and attach it to your advertisement, written on a separate piece of paper, allowing 28 letters and spaces per line. Rates are: Lineage £2.50 per line (Min. 3 lines, only first word in bold); Boxed Display £30 per single column centimetre (Min. 3 centimetres); Court & Social £10 per line. Saturday Review Colour £38 per single column centimetre. All rates are subject to 17.5% VAT. Telephone our Classified Advertising Department on 071-481 4000 between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday, 9.30am-1.00pm Saturday, late evening 7.30pm on Thursday, or send to: The Times Classified Advertising Manager, Times Newspapers Ltd, P.O. Box 484, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD.

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